Author's note:

There are always many stories featuring an energetic protaganist, but I feel quiet girls have their own charm, too. In the middle of a city that never sleeps, surrounded by concrete, that kind of girl lives. See life in a city neighborhood from Sanaka-chan's point of view

<装丁／TENOG>

Kodansya Comics フレンド

NEMURANAI MACHI KARA

YAMATO WAKI

KC 177

NEMURANAI MACHI KARA

フレンド

Yamato Waki

講談社 P380

KC フレンド

講談社
定価380円
(本体369円)

Sanaka is a 10-year-old girl who lives with her father in Takya. Inside the gray building which is their home, they have created a sky garden full of huge, green potted plants. In this city oasis, kind-hearted people meet. Yamata illustrates this poetic work

雑誌 41260-77

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まんがの中にはステキな友だちがいっぱい

friend

——毎月2回5日と20日発売——

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NEMURANAI MACHI KARA

From the City That Never Sleeps

Chapter 1: Lemon Tree

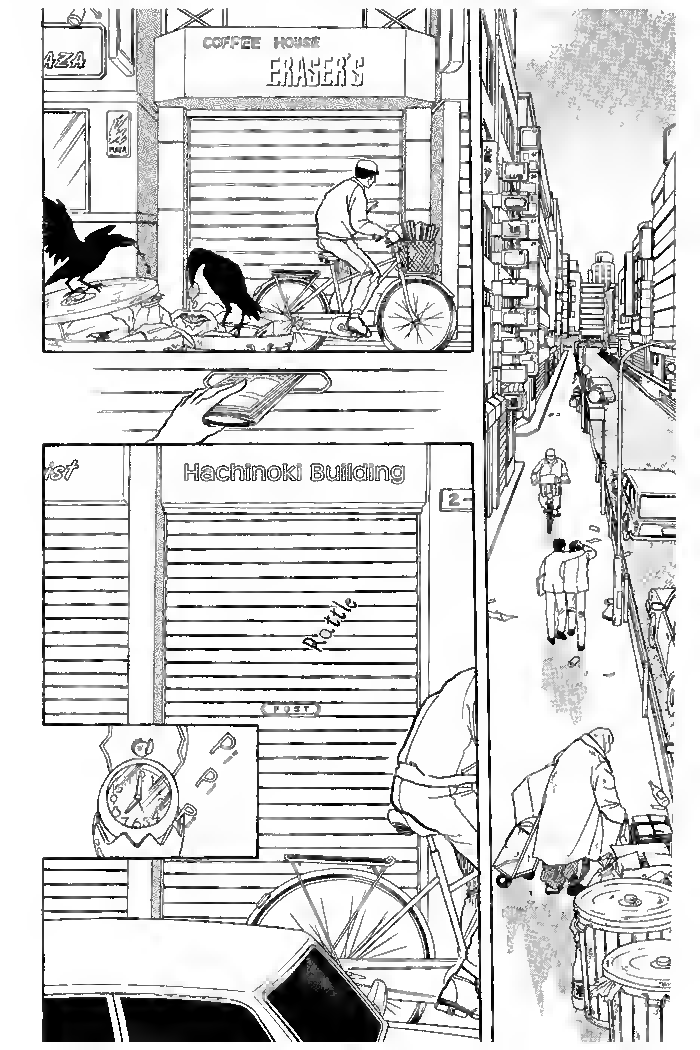
Chapter 2: Beautiful Woman in the Moonlight

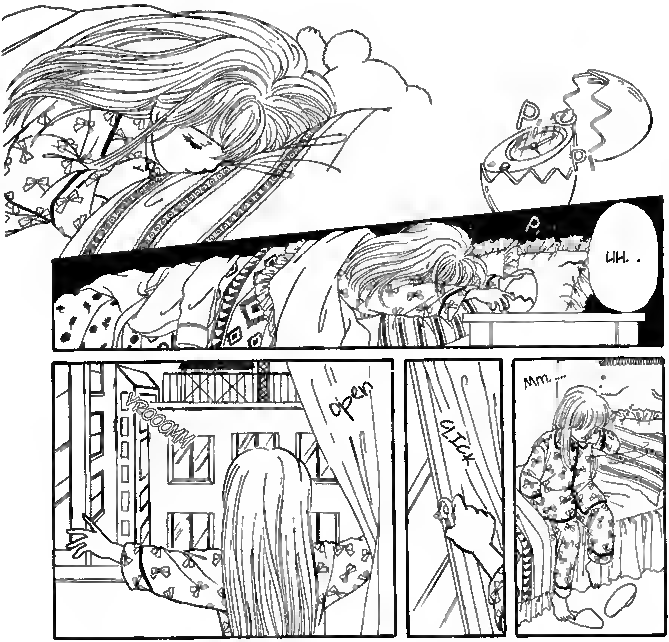
Chapter 3: Christmas Rose

Yamato Waki

Chapter 1: Lemon Tree

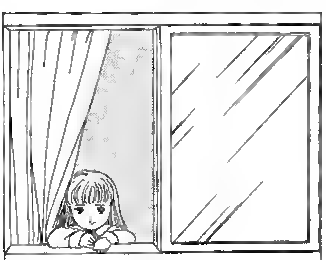
IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG


COFFEE HOUSE
ERASER'S
Hachinoki Building
Rattle
POST



The morning
I know...

Is always filled
with the sounds of
distant vehicles.



*Father
OTOU-SAN
OTOU-SAN*
KNOCK KNOCK
GOOD MORNING
I guess they're all right
Should I water the roses this morning?
IT'S ALREADY 7 O'CLOCK
COME ON, WAKE UP!
Oh, darling!
Wake up!

I'LL USE THE BATHROOM FIRST, OK?
SANAKO
YOU—
WELL, SAKE IS A LOT DIFFERENT FROM JUICE, YOU KNOW
WERE YOU UP LATE LAST NIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR BREAKFAST?
YES, I WAS
YOU WERE JUST DRINKING, WEREN'T YOU? SO WHY YOU WERE SO LATE?
A FRIED EGG
ITADAKIMASU *
IT DOESN'T TAKE THAT LONG TO DRINK JUICE
UNTIL ABOUT 2
HMM
* Said before a meal
WHAT IS IT, OTOUSAN?

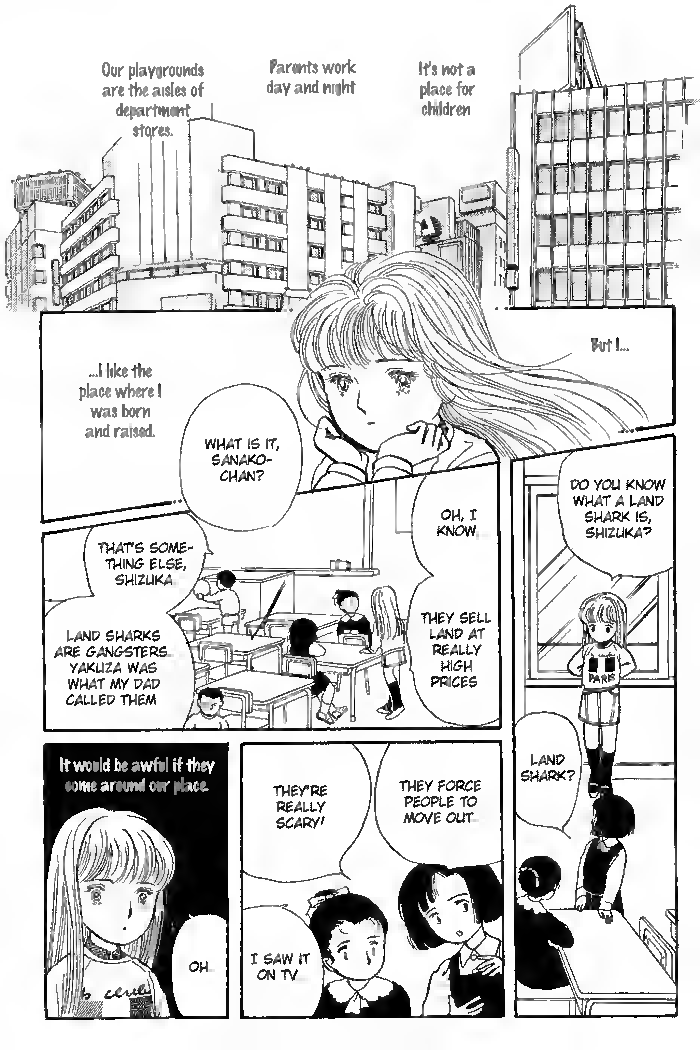
I'M GOING, MOM
I WAS THINKING, GIRLS TEND TO RESEMBLE THEIR MOTHERS
DID I SOUND LIKE MOM BEFORE?
I JUST WISH I COULD LOOK LIKE HER THAT WOULD BE GREAT
IT'S TIME TO GO
GO BRUSH YOUR TEETH!
DID YOU FORGET ANYTHING?
I live with my father on the third and fourth floors
NOPE
...of the Hachinoki building.
UH
THE NEWS-PAPER!
This building belonged to my father's parents
Hachinoki
OH
MORNING, AKARI-CHAN
MORNING, SANAKO-CHAN
TSUKIMORI-SAN

Akimoto Florist
Akari-chan and her grandfather own the flower shop on the first floor.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TELL HIM,
HE JUST DOESN'T GET IT.
Take this call, Akari.
GOOD MORNING. DID YOU JUST GET HERE?
YES. JUST NOW.
Akari-chan grew up in this building, just like me.
It feels like she's my sister.
WHAT?
HUH?
YOUR FATHER SURE IS HARD-WORKING, ISN'T HE?
GOOD MORNING, SANAKO-CHAN
Akari-chan's parents lived here, too.
THE CROWS MUST HAVE HAD A FEAST.
THEY SCATTERED TRASH ALL OVER
THEY DON'T STOP UNTIL THEY GET EVERY BIT OF FOOD.
THAT REAL ESTATE COMPANY! THEY CALL SO EARLY.
REAL ESTATE COMPANY?
THEY'RE ASKING IF WE WANT TO MOVE
WAS IT SUMIRE REAL ESTATE?
HAVE THEY TALKED TO YOU, TOO?
MAYBE THEY'RE LAND SHARKS.
I THOUGHT THEY WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP BY NOW.

OF COURSE NOT
AND IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH THOSE GUYS BE SURE TO LET ME KNOW
TSUKIMORI-SAN, YOU DON'T INTEND TO SELL, DO YOU?
THIS IS WHERE SANAKO-CHAN AND I GREW UP
THEY TARGET OLDER BUILDINGS LIKE THIS ONE
THEY DESTROY THE OLD BUILDINGS AND THEN BUILD BIGGER ONES
ITTEKI-MASU, OTOU-SAN
ITTER-ASSHAI *
YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE
KIDS DON'T NEED TO KNOW EVERY-THING
OTOU-SAN,
WHAT'S A LAND SHARK?
Florist
BE CAREFUL CROSSING THE STREET
This city I live in...
It's not really a residential area
...is full of people and cars

Japanese farewells

At the end of the day, they close their shops and go home.
Every morning they travel from where they live to this place.
GOOD MORNING, SHIZUKA-CHAN
MORNING, SANAKO-CHAN
My classmates' parents own shops in the area.
GIVE HIM MY REGARDS, OK?
I LOVE THE DESIGN YOUR DAD MADE FOR OUR HOUSE. IT'S SO PRETTY. NO WONDER MY MOTHER IS SO PROUD OF IT.
HOW'S YOUR DAD, SANAKO-CHAN?
HE'S FINE.
I'VE SEEN HIM AT THE PARENTS' MEETINGS.
AWESOME. HE'S FAMOUS.
SANAKO-CHAN'S DAD IS AN ARCHITECT
GOOD MORNING
HE'S AWESOME, BUT NOT VERY HANDSOME
Well I think Otousan is pretty handsome.
This city is a night city.


Our playgrounds are the aisles of department stores.
Parents work day and night
It's not a place for children
But I...
...I like the place where I was born and raised.
WHAT IS IT, SANAKO-CHAN?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A LAND SHARK IS, SHIZUKA?
OH, I KNOW.
THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE, SHIZUKA.
THEY SELL LAND AT REALLY HIGH PRICES
LAND SHARKS ARE GANGSTERS. YAKUZA WAS WHAT MY DAD CALLED THEM
PARK
LAND SHARK?
It would be awful if they come around our place.
THEY'RE REALLY SCARY!
THEY FORCE PEOPLE TO MOVE OUT.
OH.
I SAW IT ON TV.

SEE YOU LATER
Some day, Otousan might sell the building
BYE-BYE
SEE YOU LATER.
SANAKO-CHAN, COME OVER AND PLAY AT MY HOUSE
OH, I CAN'T TODAY
That man...
is here again.
He dresses nicely,
but he's pretty clumsy.
I wonder what he does.
I've seen him around a lot lately.
he's always making phone calls and taking pictures.
The first time I saw him,
he had a hole in his pocket.
Sorry, this is mine!
Please don't step on them!
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

Uh, thanks.
Uh...
SORRY
Clank
Turn
Hehehe
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HELPED ME PICK UP MY MONEY
AHH...
I'M REALLY VERY SORRY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
HEY, MIYAKE!
GOOD, I HAVE A QUESTION

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

OTOUSAN, THIS LEMON TREE IS INCREDIBLE!
IT HAS THREE YELLOW AND SEVEN GREEN LEMONS
THEY'LL BE RIPE THIS SUMMER
I GUESS SO
3
4
5
6
7
THE FERTILIZER MUST BE REALLY GOOD
I REALLY WANT TO PICK THEM NOW
JUST WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE RIPE
Hmm... My dad is awesome.
Nnn...
Miyake-san is handsome, but—
No, that's not quite true.
Miyake-san is a bit...

OTOUSAN,
WHAT IS IT, SANAKO?
DID YOU KNOW...
THE AMAZON RAIN-FORESTS ARE THE OXYGEN SUPPLIERS FOR THE WORLD?
THEY ABSORB CARBON DIOXIDE AND RELEASE OXYGEN INTO THE AIR
OH...
THE AIR AROUND HERE IS DIRTY...
BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF PLANTS IN THIS HOUSE.
WE HAVE ENOUGH OXYGEN
Sanako
is my oxygen.
Because of you,
I can live contentedly
Sunday Morning.
GOOD MORNING.

Every Sunday we eat breakfast at the Kimura bar on the second floor.
MORNING.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU EVERY WEEK.
MORNING, SANAKO-CHAN
IT'S NO PROBLEM. I ALWAYS COOK TOO MUCH FOR TOMORROW ANYWAY.
Kimura-san, the owner, makes the food himself.
Even though he says that Kimura-san's bar doesn't usually serve food.
People say he's run this bar for 30 years.
I LIKE EATING HERE BETTER THAN AT HOME
This is the owner of the grocery store Michinaga on the second floor
WELL, IT TASTES A LOT BETTER THAN AKARI'S COOKING
HEY!
WE BROUGHT YOU SOME LEMONS
ARE YOU THE ONE TAKING CARE OF THE TREE, SANAKO-CHAN?
I'M SURE THEY'LL BE DELICIOUS

TSUKIMORI-SAN, HAS ANYONE FROM A REAL ESTATE COMPANY CONTACTED YOU?
SAY,
WHY DON'T I MAKE SOME LEMON TEA?
THEY OFFERED TO MOVE ME TO A DIFFERENT BUILDING
YES, THEY WROTE AND CALLED ON THE PHONE.
OH, HAVE THEY TALKED TO YOU, TOO?
BAR Kimura
OH, THEY MADE YOU THAT KIND OF AN OFFER?
THEY ALSO CAME HERE
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE SERIOUS.
TO KIMURA-SAN'S?
IF I GAVE IT UP, I'D HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER JOB
I DON'T WANT TO MOVE
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT TO DO, AUNTIE?
FOR 15 YEARS MY JOB HAS BEEN RUNNING MY STORE
RIGHT, KIMURA-SAN?
YES, THAT'S TRUE.

I WISH WE HAD AN ESCALATOR HERE
SUMIRE REAL ESTATE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO USE VIOLENCE
SO THEY WANT TO BUY ALL THE OLD BUILDINGS IN THIS AREA.
Is that the thing Shinobu-chan doesn't like?
What's an escalator?
SANAKO-CHAN.
SHOP-PING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AKARI-CHAN?
I JUST MADE A DELIV-ERY.
PILLOWCASES. OTOUSAN SAID I COULD BUY US NEW ONES
WHAT DID YOU BUY?

YOU ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE TSUKUMORI-SAN AS A FATHER
I THINK
*A brand name know for its bear designs
Atsuki Oonishi?
I BOUGHT DIFFERENT COLORS FOR DAD AND ME
For Tsukumori-san?
THE ATSUKI OONISHI* DESIGN IS REALLY CUTE!
I THINK SO.
His is black.
WILL HE LIKE IT?
HE'S VERY QUIET,
BUT HE MAKES PEOPLE FEEL SO SECURE
HE MUST MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE THE MOST LOVED CHILD IN THE WORLD
Sometimes...
When she's with him, it's the same atmosphere as me and Dad.
I get the feeling Akari-chan loves my dad.

I met Miyake-san again.
YES,
I SEE HIM AROUND A LOT
A FRIEND OF YOURS?
Akari-chan is only 20 years old, so my father looks like her uncle.
AH
OH, HI.
IT SEEMS STRANGE FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID TO HAVE A SALARY MAN AS A FRIEND.
NOT REALLY.
UNBELIEVABLE!
EXCUSE ME
MAY I HELP YOU?
ARE YOU THE OWNER OF THIS SHOP?
ARE THOSE CUSTOMERS?
Miyake-san always looks so lonely.
It's not like that
I can feel it

OH, LAND SHARKS
GRANDPA, WHO WERE THEY?
JUST THINK ABOUT IT IN THE MEAN-TIME
WE'LL BE BACK
OOPS
Scary people..
So they're the ones.
WHAT?
AKARI-CHAN, THEY CAME, DIDN'T THEY?
AH, THE PLANTS
SANAKO-CHAN TOLD ME.
ARE YOU OK, AKARI-CHAN?
YEAH.
THEY ALSO CAME TO MY PLACE MY CUSTOMERS FELT THREATENED
So cruel...
EVEN IF WE THINK THEY'LL CAUSE TROUBLE
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT WE CAN'T REFUSE VISITORS TO OUR SHOPS
DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T COME IN

SHE ALWAYS SAYS THAT
AKARI HAS A GANG MAYBE THAT WILL COME IN HANDY
YOU'RE SO BRAVE, AKARI-CHAN
DON'T WORRY, AUNTIE
IF THEY COME AGAIN, I'LL THROW FROGS AT THEM
HUH?
TSUKIMORI-SAN, DO YOU WANT TO SELL THIS PLACE?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SHOULD I GET IN TOUCH WITH THAT REAL ESTATE COMPANY?
All that happened when I was very young
GRANDPA' WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
AKARI-CHAN, DON'T WORRY
What?
When Akari-chan was in high school she hung out with a bad crowd
She's not like that now
OH, I SEE
JUST TELL THEM VERY CLEARLY
I JUST WANT TO EXPLAIN MY REFUSAL
IT'S NOT THAT

Those people from yesterday ...
THEY'RE HERE!
THEY'RE HERE!
I'm not allowed to come out until they're done talking
That's what Dad told me.
EXCUSE ME
TAP
TAP
TAP
I'M FROM THE SUMIRE REAL ESTATE COMPANY
HEY, MR LAND SHARK,
YOU THINK WE SHOULD MOVE OUT JUST BECAUSE THIS BUILDING IS OLD?
WHOA!!

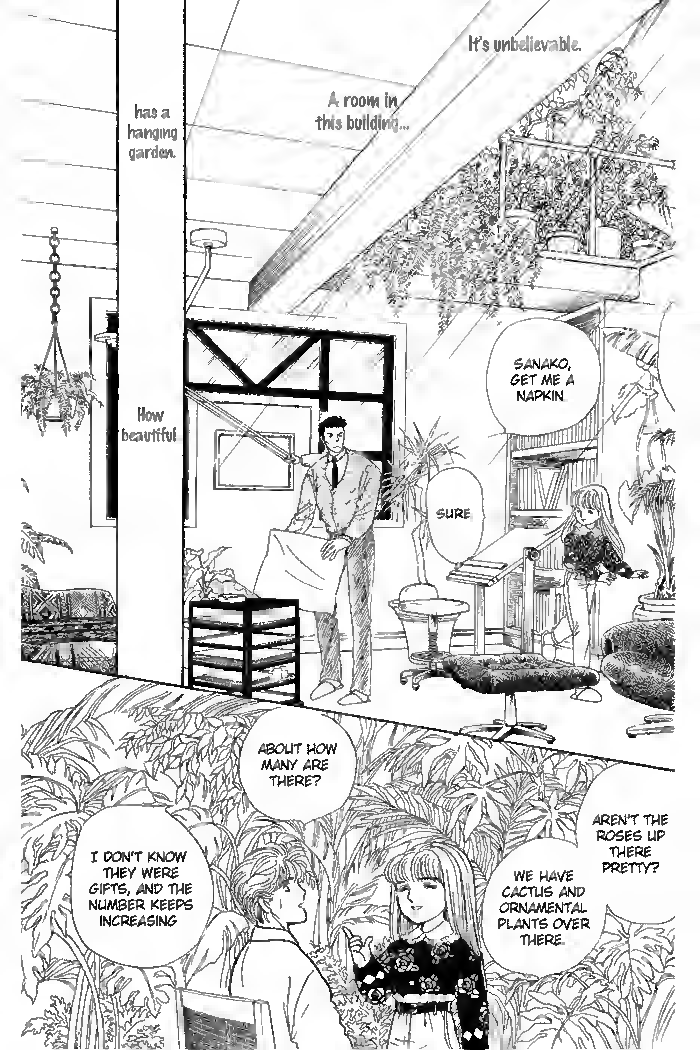
THIS BUILDING IS NOT FOR SALE!
GO TELL YOUR BOSS THAT
WAIT! DON'T PUSH!
THIS BUILDING IS PRECIOUS TO US
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A LAND SHARK OR WHATEVER, WE WON'T MOVE OUT!
YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO STAY QUIET AND JUST TAKE THIS?
WAIT A MINUTE—
WATCH—
SLIP
WAH
THUD
AAAAH
THUD
THUD
LOOKS LIKE WE OVERDID IT

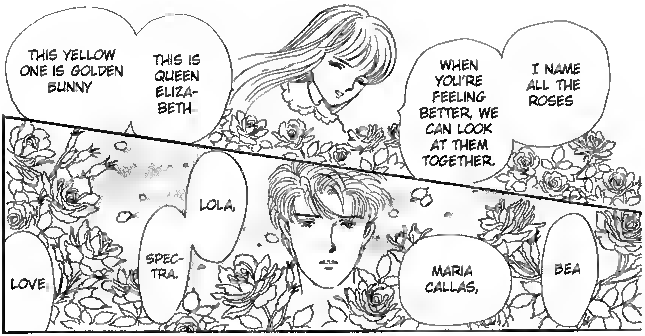
Miyake-san is a land shark?

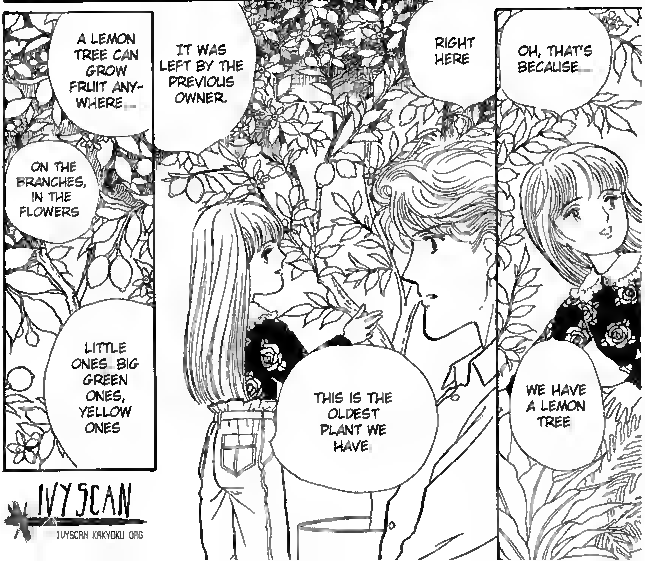
THAT WAS WICKED YOU KNOW
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT—
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
GETTING CLOSE TO SANAKO-CHAN JUST SO YOU COULD CHASE US OUT
It's hard to believe he wants to drive us out.
He doesn't look like that type of person.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE TWO WEEKS TO RECOVER.
HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH
SORRY, SANAKO-CHAN
MY BOSS TOLD ME TO COME HERE
I'M JUST A PART-TIMER. I ONLY STARTED TWO WEEKS AGO
ABOUT BEING A LAND SHARK—
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE TRYING TO DRIVE US OUT!
ESPECIALLY A CHILD
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE WAS LIVING HERE
I... I'M SORRY
I CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE LIVE HERE

THANKS FOR THE HELP
I'LL BE GOING NOW
BUT...
YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND UP
MAYBE...
I JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE REST
I'LL BE OK
YOU'RE TOO KIND, TSUKIMORI-SAN
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GETTING RID OF HIM
And that's why Miyake-san is staying here.
I'M... SO SORRY
YOU CAN GO AFTER YOU'VE RECOVERED A LITTLE
UNTIL THEN...
THEY THOUGHT THIS BUILDING WAS DARK AND EMPTY AT NIGHT.
SANAKO-CHAN, CAN YOU OPEN THE DOOR?
Huh?!
YES

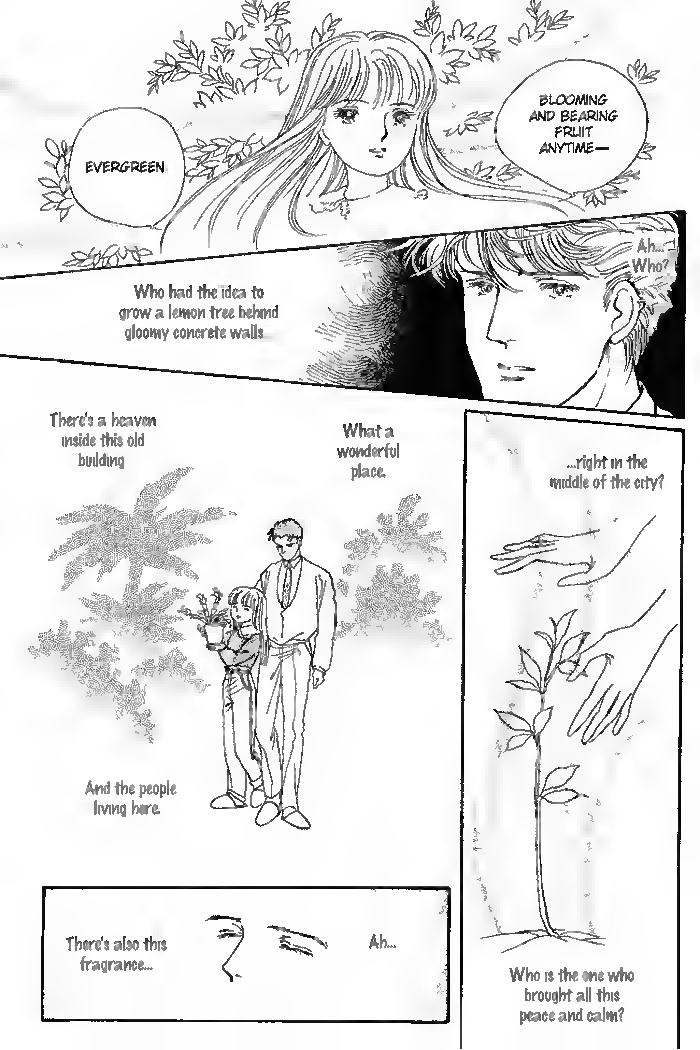
UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN REST HERE
It's breath-taking!
So many roses.
A glass room?


It's unbelievable.
A room in this building...
has a hanging garden.
How beautiful
SANAKO, GET ME A NAPKIN
SURE
ABOUT HOW MANY ARE THERE?
I DON'T KNOW THEY WERE GIFTS, AND THE NUMBER KEEPS INCREASING
WE HAVE CACTUS AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS OVER THERE.
AREN'T THE ROSES UP THERE PRETTY?




A LEMON TREE CAN GROW FRUIT ANY-WHERE...
IT WAS LEFT BY THE PREVIOUS OWNER.
RIGHT HERE
OH, THAT'S BECAUSE...
ON THE BRANCHES, IN THE FLOWERS
LITTLE ONES, BIG GREEN ONES, YELLOW ONES
THIS IS THE OLDEST PLANT WE HAVE.
WE HAVE A LEMON TREE

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG


EVERGREEN
BLOOMING AND BEARING FRUIT ANYTIME—
Who had the idea to grow a lemon tree behind gloomy concrete walls
Ah... Who?
There's a heaven inside this old building
What a wonderful place.
And the people living here
...right in the middle of the city?
There's also this fragrance...
Ah...
Who is the one who brought all this peace and calm?

HE FELL ASLEEP
MIYAKE-SAN?
Otousan...
Otousan...
I...
AH,
YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING SINCE YESTERDAY.
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
GOOD MORNING, MIYAKE-SAN
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE?
I WASN'T CRYING, WAS I?
WHILE I WAS SLEEPING?

OH,
SO HE WAS DREAM-ING,
OTOU-SAN
I WAS DREAM-ING...
YES.
ABOUT MY FATHER...
AND MY HOMETOWN...
MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE LEMON SCENT.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
YOUR HOME-TOWN?
A SMALL TOWN
THERE ARE LOTS OF LEMON GROVES THERE
WE LIVED THERE WHEN I WAS A KID,
BUT MY FATHER WANTED TO MOVE TO TOKYO.
HE WANTED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE BIG CITY.
HE STRUGGLED AND WORKED VERY HARD, BUT THEN HE GOT SICK
EVENTUALLY, HE HAD TO RETURN HOME AND THEN HE DIED
BORING STORY

I never thought he had that kind of a past
I wonder where his hometown is
OTOUSAN,
SANAKO, GO TO SCHOOL
I FAILED TO ENTER THE UNIVERSITY THREE TIMES
MAYBE I'M FATED TO BE LIKE MY FATHER
OUT OF DESPERATION, I STARTED WORKING FOR LAND SHARKS
I AM A FOOL!
DON'T LET MIYAKE-SAN...
CONTINUE TO CRY
OH...
YES
I DON'T UNDERSTAND,
BUT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...
IT SEEMED AS THOUGH HE WANTED TO CRY

HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON
NO,
MIYAKE-SAN,
ISN'T A BAD PERSON, IS HE, OTOUSAN?
ITTERASSHA!
GOOD MORNING, AKARI-CHAN.
BE CAREFUL!
YOU'RE TOO NICE!
WHAT POSSESSED YOU
TO LET THAT PERSON INSIDE YOUR HOME?
ARE YOU ANGRY, AKARI-CHAN?
SLAM!
MORNING
THAT KIND OF PERSON SHOULDN'T COME NEAR YOU AND SANAKO-CHAN!
I DON'T APPROVE!
MY INSTINCT
SWISH
SWISH

I'M PISSED OFF BECAUSE HE'S EATING AT YOUR PLACE
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT
Pat
YOU CAN COME WHENEVER YOU WANT
AM I...
JEALOUS?
27, 28, 29...
31, 32 FLOWERS!

Who are they going to visit?
TODAY IS MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY
EVERY YEAR WE ADD ONE MORE FLOWER.
NEXT YEAR THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH ROOM
IT'S A TIGHT FIT!
THE DAY SHE WAS BORN IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DAY SHE DIED.
I WAS BORN BECAUSE OF MY MOTHER, SO...
Is her mother...?
They seem so happy
In a city like this...
there is this whole other world.
DOES THAT MEAN YOUR MOM IS GETTING OLD?
NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE 33 FLOWERS
NOT REALLY, MOM IS STILL YOUNG
Usually the birthday of someone who has passed away is another day of mourning

This glass room is like a garden in the sky...
...which allows them to live in a different world.
UGH!
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF WAIT UNTIL IT HEALS
YES, BUT...
I CAN'T KEEP STAYING HERE...
I MEAN, I WORK FOR SUMIRE...
AND I'M DISTURBING YOUR WORK...

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU OAG

SOMEONE BEING HERE DOESN'T DISTURB MY WORK
AFTER ALL, I DO IT WHILE RAISING A CHILD
IT LOOKS LIKE SANAKO ENJOYS YOUR COMPANY
WHY DO YOU
LIVE HERE?
I HAVE NO OTHER PLACE
THERE ARE BETTER PLACES TO RAISE A CHILD
I INHERITED THIS BUILDING FROM MY PARENTS
AFTER I LOST MY WIFE, I CAME BACK HERE TO RAISE MY DAUGHTER
BEFORE THAT, I LIVED OUTSIDE THE CITY AND WORKED AS AN ARCHITECT
HACHINOKI BUILDING
HERE I CAN ALWAYS BE WITH SANAKO
AND IT'S NOT FAR FROM MY WORK-PLACE

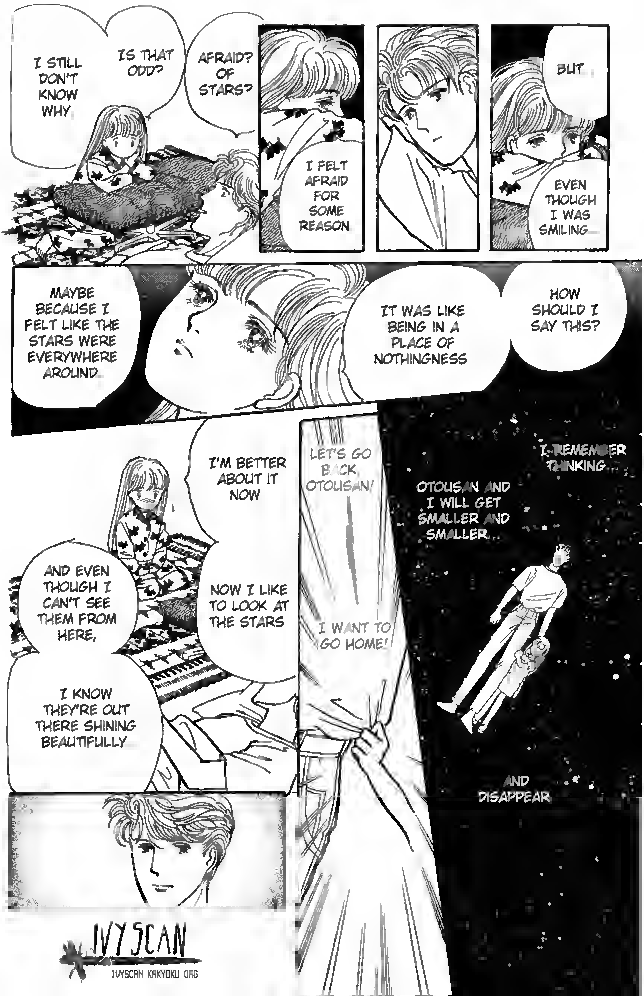
*eaves (hanging) flower pot

BUT THIS BUILDING HAS BECOME A GOOD PLACE FOR BOTH PLANTS AND A CHILD.
LIKE YOU SAID,
AND THIS ROOM?
THIS BUILDING'S NAME IS HACHINOKI*. IT SUITS IT, RIGHT?
THE CITY ISN'T THE BEST PLACE TO RAISE A CHILD.
IT FEELS LIKE A HEAVEN— BUT...
AND THIS BUILDING IS REALLY VERY SPECIAL—
I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT SANAKO-CHAN...
and before she becomes independent...
While Sanako is growing up...
WELL...
IT'S BAD FOR SANAKO-CHAN
THIS IS STILL A DANGEROUS AREA, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT.
this will be her home.
This is Sanako's place.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER!
Pub
ANTON

I WILL PROTECT HER...
IN A PLACE SHE LOVES...
...HERE,
IT'S MY OBLIGATION TO HER.
NO MATTER WHAT.
I'LL GO TAKE MY BATH.
HOW ARE YOU DOING? BETTER?
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO TAKE A BATH HERE, TSUKIMORI-SAN.
MIYAKE-SAN, I BET YOU'LL BE GLAD WHEN YOU CAN TAKE A BATH.
UH... YES
OTOUSAN, WE'RE DONE
WHEW, HOT!
YES.
SANAKO-CHAN, ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?
TSUKIMORI-SAN,

These people
are being so kind.
HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR MEDICINE?
IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP YOUR LEG RAISED
AH THANK YOU
OH, AKARI'S HERE, TOO
THIS IS FOR YOU. I COOKED IT THIS MORNING
THANK YOU, AUNTIE
DON'T EAT IT RIGHT BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP, OK?
I used to think...
that these people were cold.
SIT HERE!
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO MADE THE MESS
CAN YOU MOVE, PLEASE?
IT'S OK, AKARI-CHAN
AKARI-CHAN IS A LITTLE NERVOUS
YOU CAN TELL, RIGHT?
WHAT IF YOU RE-INJURE YOUR LEG?
DON'T STAND UP!
I'LL CLEAN THIS UP

THEY SEEMED SO NEAR. CLOSE ENOUGH TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH.
Why are they here?
Here, have a drink.
Get well soon.
They all think about me, just like my family.
It's time.
HUH?
YOU CAN'T SEE STARS HERE.
I MEAN,
IN MY HOMETOWN, WE COULD SEE THE STARS CLEARLY.
IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE STARS IN THE CITY.
ONCE, I WENT SOMEWHERE WITH MY FATHER.
IT WAS JUST LIKE A PLANETARIUM.
THE SKY WAS FULL OF STARS.


I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY...
IS THAT ODD?
AFRAID? OF STARS?
I FELT AFRAID FOR SOME REASON...
BUT...
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SMILING...
MAYBE BECAUSE I FELT LIKE THE STARS WERE EVERYWHERE AROUND...
IT WAS LIKE BEING IN A PLACE OF NOTHINGNESS
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS?
I REMEMBER THINKING...
OTOUSAN AND I WILL GET SMALLER AND SMALLER...
AND DISAPPEAR
I'M BETTER ABOUT IT NOW
NOW I LIKE TO LOOK AT THE STARS
AND EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SEE THEM FROM HERE,
I KNOW THEY'RE OUT THERE SHINING BEAUTIFULLY...
LET'S GO BACK, OTOUSAN!
I WANT TO GO HOME!!

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

It's the first time in years
that I've said good night to someone.
GOOD NIGHT.
I'M GOING TO BED, OK?
GOOD NIGHT.
...in such a long time.
And I haven't talked about myself to anyone.
Good night.
CLATTER
THE HEATER ISN'T WORKING!
RUN
WHAT, IT'S BROKEN AGAIN?
OTOU-SAN!
Ah, being here...
QUICK, QUICK!
WHAT?
IF THIS ROOM GETS TOO COLD, THE LEMON TREE WILL DIE!
OTOU-SAN!
is like floating on a cloud in a glass-enclosed garden.

WHAT CAN WE DO?
LEMON TREES HAVE NO RESISTANCE TO COLD
IT BREAKS SO OFTEN
I HOPE THE TREE ISN'T ALREADY DEAD
THE TREE IS REALLY LARGE, BUT MAYBE WE COULD WRAP IT IN PLASTIC
PLASTIC?
IT'S TOO BAD WE CAN'T BUILD A CAMPFIRE
IT LOOKS LIKE THE TEMPERATURE IS STAYING CONSTANT
WE'LL HAVE TO CALL A TREE SPECIALIST TOMORROW
WE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON IT TONIGHT TO MAKE SURE THE WIND DOESN'T DROP THE TEMPERATURE
ATTACH IT TO THE PICTURE FASTENER
SANAKO-CHAN, GO GET SOME MORE PLASTIC FROM THE SECOND FLOOR
ARE YOU OK, MIYAKE-SAN?
IS THIS ENOUGH?
LET'S TRY IT

DO THE LEAVES LOOK WILTED?
HOW IS THE FRUIT?
IF IT FROZE, THE LEMONS WOULD DROP OFF
QUICKLY QUICKLY,
PLEASE!
DID THE LEMON TREE FREEZE?
EVERY-THING'S OK
REALLY?
PLASTIC WRAPPING? REALLY CLEVER
MIYAKE-SAN SUGGESTED IT
ARE YOU THAT MIYAKE-SAN?
MIYAKE?
COULD YOU POSSIBLY—?
HUH?
NO, YOU COULDN'T BE
THAT MIYAKE-SAN WENT BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN 10 YEARS AGO
WHEN YOU TWO MOVED IN, THIS TREE WAS ALREADY HERE
What?
MIYAKE-SAN IS THE ONE WHO LEFT IT

10 years ago?
The family name is the same.
My father
AFTER HE GOT SICK,
HE WENT BACK THERE
HE USED TO SAY, 'THIS LEMON TREE ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF MY HOMETOWN'
HE SAID HE WAS FROM A CITRUS-PRODUCING AREA,
SETOUCHI, I THINK
THIS ROOM USED TO BE HIS OFFICE
HE WAS A GOOD PERSON
Could it be true?
It's not possible
So it was my dad!
Dad?
MIYAKE-SAN!
My dad used to be here!
In this room!!

Whenever Miyake-san's father looked at this tree...
he was reminded of his home town...
and of his wife and son.
SO THAT WAS YOUR FATHER, MIYAKE-SAN?
HE MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONE WHO FIRST PLANTED THIS LEMON TREE
MIYAKE-SAN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
MIYAKE-SAN!
in a short time.
I'm the one.
who will help destroy this place!
This is no ordinary place.
Sanako-chan and the others...
And then I remember...

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU ORG

BUT WHY DID HE LEAVE?
HIS LEG HADN'T EVEN HEALED
AND HIS FATHER'S TREE IS HERE.
IT IS SAD,
EVEN THOUGH WE ONLY KNEW HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE
YES
Miyake-san didn't return.

WE HAD TO CLEAR AWAY THE ROCKS JUST SO WE COULD OPEN THE DOOR.
AND DROPPED ROCKS IN FRONT OF THE SHOP.
YESTERDAY, A TRUCK PULLED UP...

IF THEY SUCCEED, THEY'LL BUILD OFFICE BUILDINGS
AH, I SEE
THEY WANT TO CHASE US OUT NO MATTER WHAT.
KIMURA-SAN,
WHY IS THE CURTAIN CLOSED?
THAT'S A CRIME!
CAN'T WE CALL THE POLICE?
Bang
IT'S SO LATE— OH, MIYAKE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT?!
THEY'VE HIRED A TRUCK TO DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING?!
IT'S TERRIBLE! WE HAVE TO WARN TSUKIMORI-SAN!
AKIMOTO-SAN!
AKIMOTO-SAN!
Bang Bang
THE PEOPLE FROM SUMIRE, TONIGHT...
Demolish the Hachinoki Building?

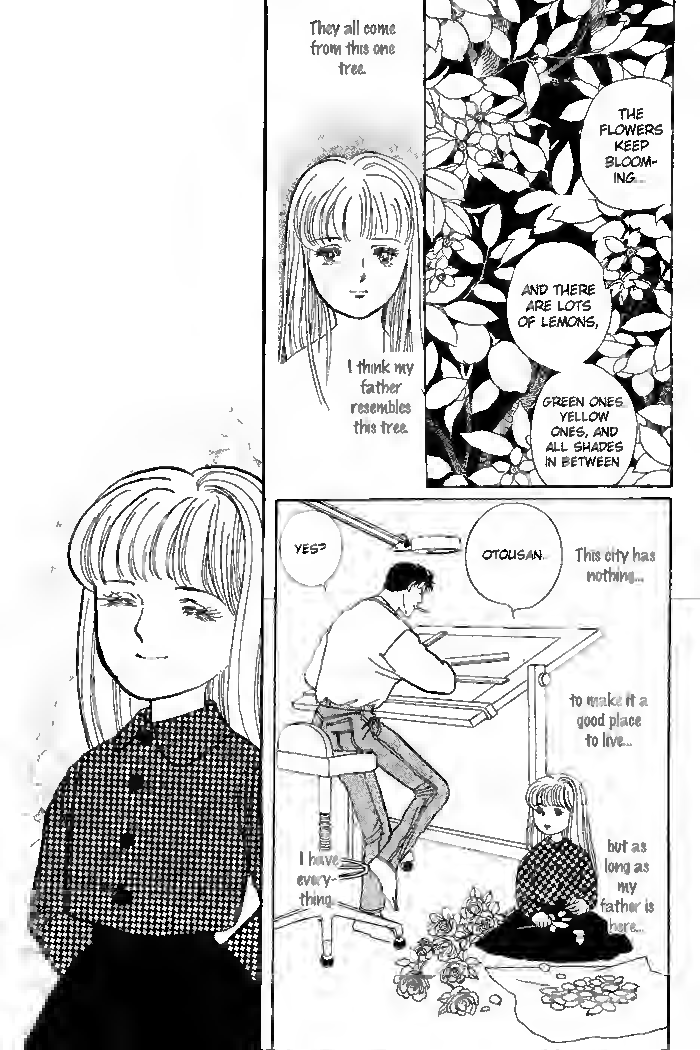
OTOUSAN?
WHY ARE THEY BEING SO CRUEL TO US?
THEY'RE HERE
BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE, I WAS ASSIGNED TO A DIFFERENT SECTOR,
BUT TODAY I LISTENED IN ON THEIR MEETING.
IT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!
THEY'RE GOING TO DESTROY THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. YOU'LL BE FORCED TO EITHER REPAIR IT OR SELL IT.
WHY IS HE HERE?
HEY, ISN'T THAT MIYAKE?
STOP!
MIYAKE-SAN, THAT'S DANGEROUS!
GO ON BACK!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DESTROY THIS BUILDING. MY FATHER USED TO LIVE HERE.
YOU CAN'T DESTROY THIS PLACE!
Miyake-san...

BUT THE INSIDE IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT
ALL YOU SEE IS THE OUTSIDE OF AN OLD BUILDING...
MOVE ASIDE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, IDIOT?
is our garden..
This place...
MOVE ASIDE, MIYAKE-SAN!
I DON'T CARE!
GET OUT OF THE WAY, MIYAKE!
LET IT GO.
IF YOU WANT TO DESTROY IT, GO AHEAD!
HEY!
BUT, TSUKIMORI-SAN, I—
YOU'RE FIRED!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR THE SAKE OF THIS BUILDING

IF YOU WANT TO DO IT, DO IT!
DID YOU HEAR ME?
BUT WE WON'T GIVE UP!
Otousan!
NO TSUKIMORI-SAN!
I WILL REBUILD IT!
DESTROY IT, AND I WILL REBUILD IT.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES, I WILL DO IT!
I will protect it.
For the sake of my child...
That's the reason I live.
Otousan

It's my obligation!
Only I can protect her and make her happy.
Any complaints?
Otousan ...
Otousan!
you always surprise me!
THANKS FOR LETTING US KNOW
MIYAKE-KUN,
TSUKIMORI-SAN, I—
THANK GOOD-NESS.
THEY'RE GONE!
THEY'RE GONE, TSUKI-MORI-SAN!
CHE!
OI!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

ALLOW ME...
I WANT TO STAY NEAR MY FATHER'S LEMON TREE
and now he works at Michinaga.
Miyake-san quit his job..
After that, the land sharks never returned
Sometimes he stops in to see the lemon tree.
Whenever Miyake-san visits the tree.
it looks like he's chatting with his father
7F
LOUNGE
ボン
5F
くぼく
5
ラブホ
4F
ひろしまの味
銀座
2F
珈琲専門


They all come from this one tree.
I think my father resembles this tree.
THE FLOWERS KEEP BLOOMING...
AND THERE ARE LOTS OF LEMONS,
GREEN ONES, YELLOW ONES, AND ALL SHADES IN BETWEEN
YES?
OTOUSAN.
This city has nothing...
to make it a good place to live...
but as long as my father is here...
I have everything.

...I can get from my father
BE CAREFUL I'M SMOKING
I LOVE YOU
Anything I want
EH?
SANAKO, DO YOUR HOME-WORK, BRUSH YOUR TEETH, AND THEN GO TO SLEEP, OK?
It's this late already!
OH, YEAH. I NEED TO GO NOW
IT LOOKS LIKE TSUKI-MORI-SAN IS GOING OUT SOMEWHERE
WELL, YEAH.
ARE YOU GOING TO THE BAR FOR KARAOKE?
CAN WE GO TOGETHER WHEN I'M A GROWN-UP?
OTOUSAN
THAT'S UNUSUAL
HE'S LEAVING SANAKO-CHAN ALONE

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

The night I know...
is full of red and blue lights twinkling like jewels.
BUT SANAKO-CHAN TOLD ME...
HER MOTHER WAS DEAD.
HUH?
HIS WIFE DIED, DIDN'T SHE? I SAW HER PICTURE
I GUESS HE'S TAKING A BREAK
NO, HIS WIFE ISN'T DEAD
I HEARD THEY DIVORCED
SHE'S STILL ALIVE

Namarana Machi Kara
Chapter 1 - End

IVYSCAN

IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

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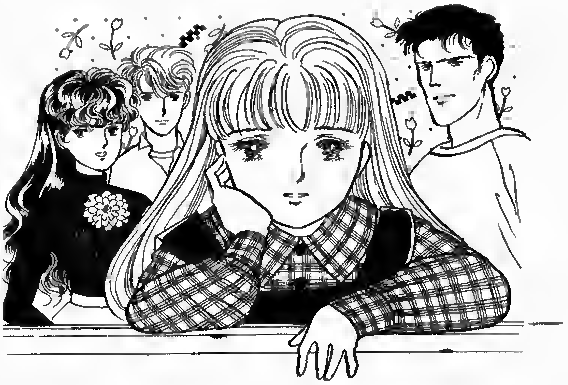
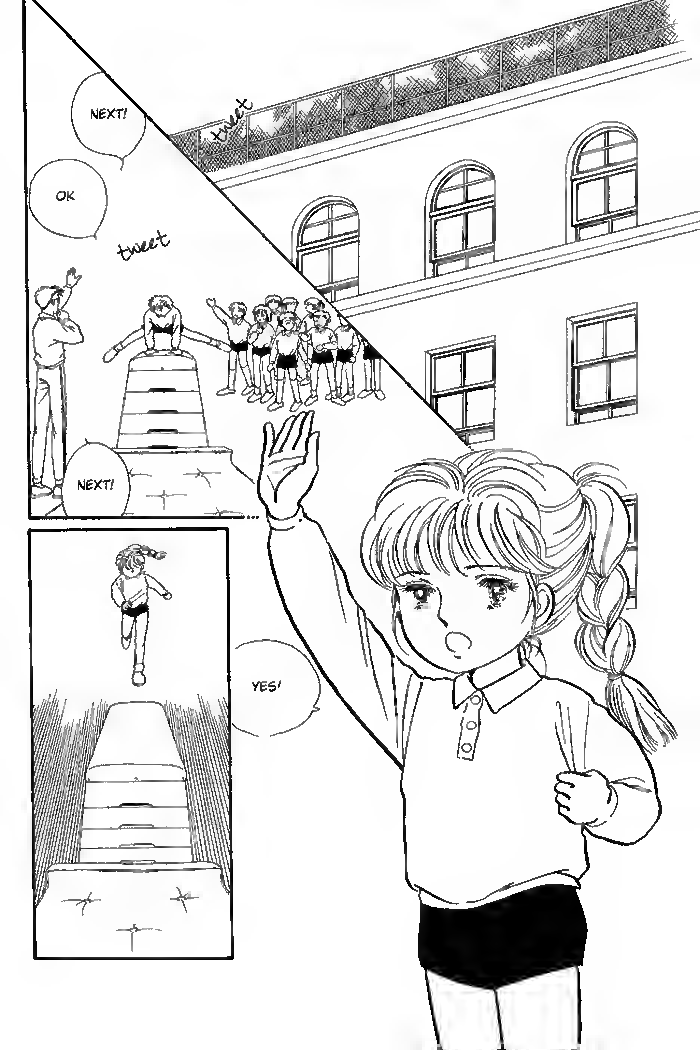


Chapter 2: Ketsuka Bijin

(Beautiful Woman in the Moonlight)


NEXT!
OK
tweet
NEXT!
tweet
YES!

I'M BAD AT THIS
SANAKO, YOU HAVE TO PUSH HARDER.
KEEP YOUR HANDS IN FRONT
THUD
BAM
AAH!
SANAKO REALLY SUCKS
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I SAW IT!
YOU CAN'T EVEN USE AN ESCALATOR, CAN YOU?
KAWAKUBO-KUN
YOU WERE BUSY.
AND YOU DIDN'T NOTICE ME.
SO YOU SAW US—
Eh?
YESTERDAY YOU GUYS WERE PLAYING IN THE MALL.

If he uses the elevator, we have to take the stairs.
The rule is we're not allowed to use the same escalator as the criminal
2F
We choose a customer as a criminal and follow him until he leaves.
We were playing a game.
IN THE END, SHE MISSED THE PERSON
SANAKO COULDN'T GET ON THE ESCALATOR TO THE THIRD FLOOR.
Kawakubo-kun saw me.
Doki
Ack, he saw me.
I don't know why
I hate him.
YOU WERE BORN AND RAISED IN THE CITY, BUT YOU STILL ACT LIKE A HICK FROM THE COUNTRY.
JUST IGNORE HIM. IGNORE HIM.
SHUT UP!!
I usually hesitate before I get on an escalator
Uh, what should I do?
I must have weak nerves
Kawakubo-kun always picks on me.

SANAKO-CHAN CAN YOU COME TO MY HOUSE TODAY TO PLAY?
YOU MEAN TO YOUR SHOP?
NO, TO MY HOUSE.
MY MOM IS FREE TODAY SO I'M GOING STRAIGHT HOME
SOMEONE GAVE ME A PUPPY IT'S SO CUTE
AW, I WANT TO SEE IT!
I HAVE TO TELL MY DAD FIRST
WELCOME HOME, SANAKO-CHAN
I'M BACK
GOOD AFTER-NOON
WOW!
WHAT A BIG PE COCK CACTUS!

She's no less beautiful than her peacock cactus.
THIS IS AN AUTUMN PLANT.
It seems like Akari-chan gets more beautiful every day
YOURS MUST BE BLOOMING TOO SANAKO-CHAN
She doesn't know I know about it
It's because she has a boyfriend
Maybe.
WELL,
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ALREADY OCTOBER, AND THE PEACOCK CACTUS IS BLOOMING, BUT...
I thought Akari-chan...
Once
was in love with my father
THE KETSUKA BIJIN* HASN'T BLOOMED AT ALL
THAT'S STRANGE. IT SHOULD HAVE STARTED BUDDING IN JUNE.
I WILL CHECK ON IT
Ketsuka Bijin is translated as "Beautiful Woman in the Moonlight". It is known in the West as the Night blooming Cereus or Queen of the Night

OH,
THIS CACTUS!
WHAT DOES IT REMIND YOU OF?
ha ha ha
OH I KNOW
KAWAKUBO-KUN, RIGHT?
THE THORNS ARE THE SAME
RIGHT!
?
DOES HE ONLY PICK ON YOU?
YES DURING LUNCH,
HE SHOUTED AT ME
I'M HOME, OTOUSAN
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU
YEAH
open
BUT IT'S A POSSIBILITY
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
RIGHT, SHIZUKA-CHAN?
HUH?
PERHAPS HE LIKES YOU

THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS INTERESTING, ISN'T IT?
IS THIS A PEACOCK CACTUS TOO?
YES, THEY COME IN A VARIETY OF COLORS.
EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T HAVE THORNS, IT BELONGS TO THE CACTUS FAMILY.
THAT KIND GROWS IN RAIN FORESTS
MAY I GO TO SHIZUKA-CHAN'S HOUSE TO SEE HER NEW PUPPY?
THE KETSUKA BIJIN IS A KIND OF PEACOCK CACTUS.
THE BUDS APPEAR IN JUNE AND IT BLOOMS BETWEEN AUGUST AND OCTOBER.
THE FRAGRANT WHITE FLOWERS ARE ABOUT 20 CM LARGE
THEY BLOOM IN THE EVENING AND CLOSE UP BY MORNING.

NO PROBLEM, BUT WILL IT BLOOM?
SANAKO-CHAN, I WANT TO SEE IT THE NEXT TIME IT BLOOMS.
IT'S PROBABLY GETTING TOO MUCH NITROGEN FROM THE FERTILIZER
I COULD STAY OVER-NIGHT.
MIYAKE-KUN CAN BRING IT DOWN FOR ME.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
DON'T STAY TOO LATE
I'M GOING
AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO TAKE THE WRONG TRAIN
THAT'S WHY IT'S ALSO CALLED NIGHT-BLOOMING CEREUS.
THAT'S SO ROMANTIC!
Dad has been very busy lately
MY FRIEND TOLD ME THIS BUILDING IS GOING TO BE USED AS A GALLERY.
WOW, SOUNDS INTERESTING

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
THEY'RE SURE TO ACCEPT IT.
MY FATHER SAID YOU WERE A RENOWNED ARCHITECT BEFORE YOU MOVED HERE
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL ACCEPT IT OR NOT,
BUT THIS SKETCH PLEASES ME
I'LL HAVE TO HAVE SOMEONE TAKE CARE OF SANAKO WHILE I'M BUSY WITH THE PROJECT.
STILL, IF IT IS ACCEPTED, THERE WILL BE ANOTHER PROBLEM.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
MIYAKE-SAN, WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
CAN YOU TAKE MY CACTUS DOWN TO AKARI-CHAN'S PLACE FOR ME?
BAR
SANAKO-CHAN

WOW, HE'S COOL
YES, HE'S A REALLY NICE PERSON
HEY, STOP IT!
I SHALL DO IT, SANAKO OJOU-SAMA
OK! I'LL TAKE IT THERE
OH, THANKS VERY MUCH
HUH?
OH, IT'S A CACTUS!
STRANGE GUY. HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY
LET'S GO
Ah
KAWAKUBO-KUN
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
I think he hates me.
I think—

UHH?
BONK
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
THERE'S A BUD HERE.
AKARI-CHAN,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST THROW IT OUT?
THAT'S ODD MAYBE IT'S JUST TOO COLD
dash
YEAH
YOU MEAN THIS KETSUKA BIJIN?
IT WON'T BLOOM ANYMORE
BUT THIS IS YOUR WIFE'S FAVORITE FLOWER.
IS THAT OK?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP IT SO SECRET
ACTUALLY
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT.
AKARI-CHAN, YOU—
YOUR WIFE ...
IS STILL ALIVE, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH SANAKO HAS NO IDEA...
IT MEANS YOU DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER YOUR WIFE ANYMORE.
IF YOU WANT TO THROW THIS PLANT AWAY,
TSUKIMORI-SAN, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT SUMMER?
THEN DON'T THROW IT AWAY!
THIS PLANT HAS A LOT OF MEMORIES ATTACHED TO IT.
WHETHER I REMEMBER OR NOT
IT'S OVER
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WE SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT
WATCHING THE FLOWERS BLOOM AND THEN CLOSE AGAIN
I WILL NEVER FORGET IT.
I SOMETIMES THINK OF THAT NIGHT
OH, MIYAKE-KUN,
CAN YOU PLEASE TAKE THIS DOWNSTAIRS?
I'M GOING TO KEEP IT FOR A WHILE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT UNTIL IT BUDS AND THEN I'LL RETURN IT TO YOU.
Ketsuka Bijin?

YES, I DID!
BUT HE'S NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON!
YOU SPENT A WHOLE NIGHT WITH TSUKIMORI-SAN?
DID HE...?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
OH,
YOU HEARD THAT?
WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, I LIVED AT TSUKIMORI-SAN'S PLACE FOR A WHILE
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
I HUNG AROUND WITH OTHER DELINQUENTS...
Red hair
USED FOUL LANGUAGE
AND CAUSED MY PARENTS A LOT OF WORRY
I WAS A DELINQUENT
I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THAT
YOU WERE IN A GANG
YEAH

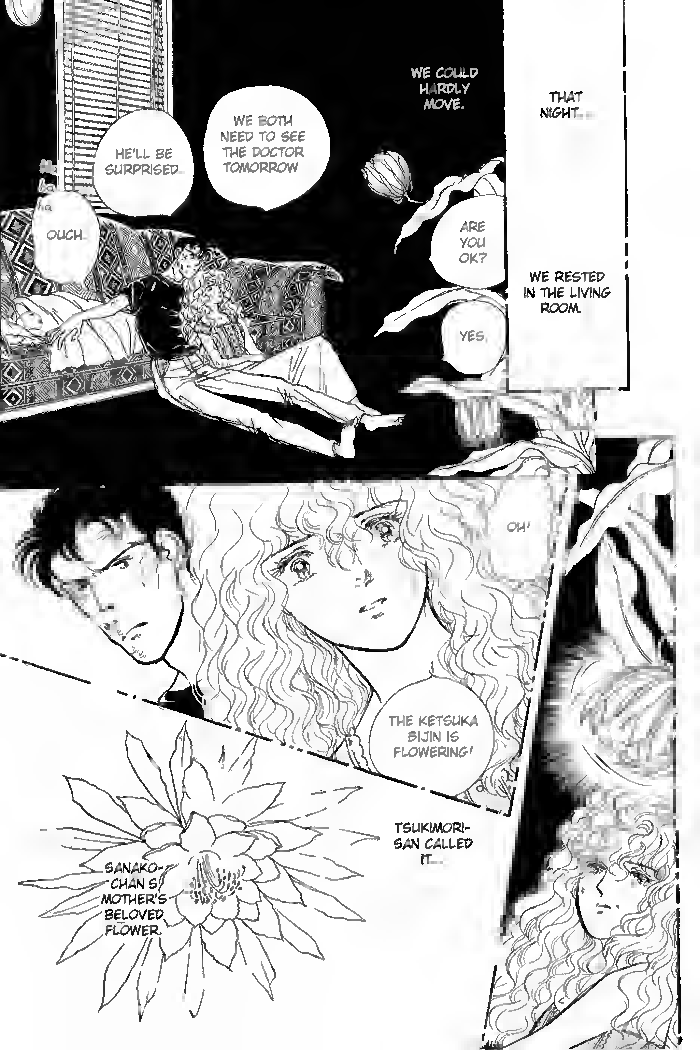
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE THAT.
MA'AM,
OUR OTHER CHILDREN ARE SMART AND HARD-WORKING. WHY IS AKARI-CHAN THIS WAY?
WE'VE ALWAYS HAD SUCH A CALM, PEACEFUL HOUSE-HOLD, BUT SHE'S EMBARRASSING US
POOR GIRL SHE'S ALWAYS BEING COMPARED TO HER SIBLINGS
AKARI-CHAN IS ACTUALLY A NICE GIRL
THEY LET ME STAY WITH TSUKIMORI-SAN BECAUSE I INSISTED
MY PARENTS GAVE UP THE BUSINESS AND MOVED TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY
ONLY ONE PERSON TOOK PITY ON ME
HE NEVER TRIED TO GIVE ME ANY ADVICE,
SO TSUKIMORI-SAN LIKED YOU
BUT I HAD TO BE POLITE TO HIM
AFTER TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOU?
AND HE COOKED EVERY DAY
AT THAT TIME, SANAKO WAS VERY YOUNG
MY PARENTS GAVE ME FREEDOM

WE PLAYED TOGETHER ALL THE TIME
SANAKO WAS CLOSE TO ME, TOO
MY LIFE WAS SAFE AND SECURE
I WAS ONLY USED TO EATING INSTANT FOOD
EVERY SINGLE DAY
To me even a radish looked beautiful.
WE ONLY HAD PROBLEMS WHEN I WENT OUT AT NIGHT
OH, I SEE
ORDINARY PEOPLE HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT THESE THINGS ONLY THE EXPERTS DO
I LEARNED ABOUT IT FROM GRANDPA
AND THIS CACTUS NEEDS A BAMBOO STAKE FOR SUPPORT
IT NEEDS WATER AND SOME FERTILIZER
IT WILL HAVE TO BE WATERED IF THE HUMIDITY DROPS
AKARI-CHAN, YOU DON'T NEED TO BOTHER WITH THAT
MY PARENTS ARE IGNORANT ABOUT FLOWERS AND CLOSED THE SHOP
I'D REALLY LIKE TO LIVE WITH HIM IN HIS FLOWER SHOP
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT PLANTS

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE AT ALL
I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE
YOU DON'T NEED TO COMPLIMENT ME!
I'LL NEVER BE A GOOD KID, EVEN IF I STOP PLAYING AROUND
AKARI-CHAN,
YOU'RE A GOOD KID
NO
LIES
IF SANAKO-CHAN GROWS UP TO ACT THE WAY I DO,
I HOPE SANAKO-CHAN WILL BE LIKE YOU
YOU'RE PRETTY SERIOUS, AKARI-CHAN
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND LATER
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
YOU'LL FIGHT WITH HER JUST LIKE MY PARENTS DO WITH ME

YOU HATE LIES AND INJUSTICE
SERIOUS AND STUBBORN
I'll never be like my siblings.
So stupid...
NO AKARI-CHAN
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR DINNER
MY FRIENDS...
BUT AFTER-WARDS
I FOOLED AROUND LESS AND LESS
DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT STEAK FOR DINNER?
NO, THEY'RE DANGEROUS!
SORRY, MY DAUGHTER CAN'T GO
I WANT TO, BUT...
WHO IS THIS OLD MAN?
YOU'RE NOT HER FATHER!
DON'T ACT SO BOSSY!

THEY ATTACKED US!!
BUT HE DIDN'T TRY TO FIGHT BACK
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IS THAT AN INSULT?
UNCLE!
Uncle!
NO, SHE'S A DAUGHTER I LOVE.
PLEASE DON'T COME HERE AGAIN.
SHE'S NOT GOING OUT AND MISS DINNER.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UNCLE!
HE JUST PROTECTED ME.
BUT THOSE PUNKS RAN AWAY
MAN, THAT WAS ROUGHER THAN HARD LABOR
Yes...
ran way
they all


THAT NIGHT...
WE RESTED IN THE LIVING ROOM.
YES.
ARE YOU OK?
WE COULD HARDLY MOVE.
WE BOTH NEED TO SEE THE DOCTOR TOMORROW
HE'LL BE SURPRISED.
OUCH.
OH!
THE KETSUKA BIJIN IS FLOWERING!
TSUKIMORI-SAN CALLED IT...
SANAKO-CHAN'S MOTHER'S BELOVED FLOWER.

AND WATCHED THE FLOWERS OPEN AND THEN CLOSE UP AGAIN.
UNTIL MORNING
THE TWO OF US SAT THERE...
MUST BE BEAUTIFUL LIKE THIS FLOWER.
TSUKIMORI-SAN'S WIFE...

I...
I HATE THE KETSUKA BIJIN CACTUS.
UNCLE
I WANT TO BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS A KETSUKA BIJIN
THAT'S WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT TSUKIMORI-SAN AND HIS WIFE WERE SEPARATED...
AND THAT SHE WAS STILL ALIVE
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THAT FLOWER—
YOU'RE MORE BEAUTIFUL.
YOU'RE STRONGER AND TOUGHER.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DATING SOMEONE ELSE.
YES. EVER SINCE THEN.
AKARI-SAN...
I THINK YOU LIKE TSUKIMORI-SAN
BUT HE HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN HIS WIFE
HEY!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
S-SORRY
SANAKO-CHAN SAID—
JEEZ, THAT KID!

7 O'CLOCK, SAME PLACE
YES. THIS IS AKARI.
YES.
AKARI, YOU HAVE A CALL.
IT'S YOUR BOY-FRIEND.
GRANDPA!
A NICE GUY.
HE WORKS WITH PLANTS.
Actually, Akari-san..
is a very interesting flower
Shizuka's house is about a 30 minute train ride from town.
WELL, THERE'S NO BUTCHER SHOP NEAR MY HOUSE.
IT'S STRANGE
YOU'VE NEVER MADE CROQUETTES?
I will never forget that night...
or the Ketsuka with.

Shizuka lives in a normal house...
REALLY?
THAT'S EVEN ODDER
REALLY?
SO WHERE DO YOU BUY VEGETABLES AND FISH?
AT THE SUPER-MARKET
WE GET OUR RICE DELIVERED
with a garden and a dog
WAH, SO CUTE!
I'M HOME, MOM.
OH, SANAKO-CHAN!
YOU CAME JUST IN TIME I'M MAKING A CAKE.
Her mother stays home.
It's very different from my house.
DON'T EAT IT IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT
I LIKE APPLE PIE BETTER.
AW, RAISIN CAKE
Her mother's homemade cake...
is warm and tasty

WELL, I'VE HEARD PEOPLE SAY,
"A MAN BECOMES DISHONEST WHEN HE'S IN LOVE."
STOP IT, SHIZUKA-CHAN!
YOUR ONEE-CHAN SAID
THAT KAWAKUBO MIGHT LIKE YOU
HUH?
YOUR FIRST LOVE IN THE 4TH GRADE!
WOW!
If he likes me...
No!
will I like him, too?
Or hate him?
I don't understand...
that kind of thing.
HOW WAS THE PUPPY? CUTE?
YES, REALLY CUTE.

SANAKO, SALT
IT MUST BE WONDERFUL TO LIVE IN AN ORDINARY HOUSE...
AND HAVE A DOG AS A PET AND A LARGE GARDEN
IF OKASAN WERE ALIVE WE COULD LIVE IN A HOUSE LIKE THAT
THE CAKE SHIZUKA-CHAN'S MOTHER MADE...
TASTED DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES FROM THE STORES
DELICIOUS?
YES. ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT WAS STILL WARM
SHIZUKA-CHAN COMPLAINED ABOUT IT,
BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY GOOD.
LET'S EAT.
ITADAKI-MASU
OK
OTOUSAN...
WAS OKASAN YOUR FIRST LOVE?
BLUSH

IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
WELL, I WAS 26 YEARS OLD...
THE ANSWER IS NO?
WHY SUDDENLY ...?
WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS?
WHAT IS IT, SANAKO?
HMM
SO...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
BESIDES, OKASAN IS GONE.
Huh?
LOOKS LIKE YOU WOULD RATHER HAVE A MOTHER.
Actually, your mother...
SANAKO ...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BAKE A CAKE.
ANYWAY ...

YOU MISUNDERSTOOD OTOUSAN
I ONLY WANTED TO KNOW...
HOW OLD YOU WERE WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST LOVE...
AND WHO YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH
EARL GREY
What
WHAT WERE YOU LIKE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?
UM, NEVER MIND...
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH
YOUR MOTHER IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE KETSUKA BIJIN

What does it feel like to fall in love?
That's what I really wanted to ask Otousan about.
I can't sleep
but about Kawakubo-kun's feelings..
and about Akari-chan.
What I really wanted to know...
was not about how beautiful mother was...
Ketsuka Bijin..
Akari-chan..

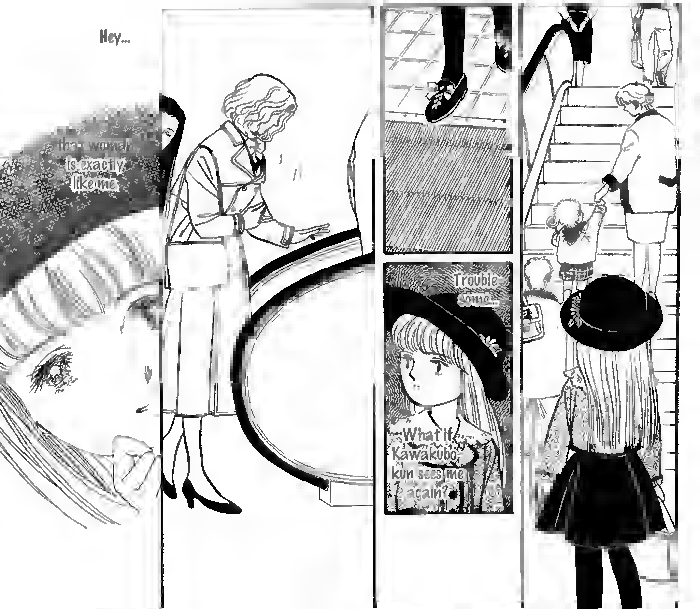
Why...
Is Akari-chan crying?
Isn't it wonderful to be loved?
By anyone?
Perhaps Okasan and Otousan, too.
When will that happen to me?
Strange.
It's probably the Ketsuka Bijin that's messing up my feelings.

When the time comes...
this place might already be gone.
But when?
I have to tell her someday
YOUR WIFE IS STILL ALIVE, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH SANAKO HAS NO IDEA.
Next day at the Kimura Bar
YOU CAN STAND THOSE LATE NIGHTS.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
I DIDN'T SLEEP VERY WELL LAST NIGHT, SO I WOKE UP LATE.
It looks like Akari-chan is also having sleeping problems.
YOU'LL DO ANYTHING FOR SANAKO-CHAN, WON'T YOU?
Reminds me of that one time.
IT'S SO RARE FOR A MAN TO WANT TO LEARN HOW TO COOK.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE MODERN DESSERTS
YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO BAKE A CAKE?

WHEN YOU FIRST MOVED IN HERE...
I REMEMBER.
IT'S HARD FOR A MAN TO TAKE CARE OF A BABY
I HELPED YOU OUT AS MUCH AS I COULD
YOU HAD NO IDEA HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A BABY
HOW ABOUT—
YOU SHOULD REMARRY.
SO YOU READ BOOKS ABOUT IT
I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH BABIES.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
EVER SINCE THEN, SHE GETS SICK EASILY.
BUT SHE GOT VERY SICK BECAUSE OF THE SITTER'S NEGLIGENCE
I USED TO LEAVE SANAKO WITH A BABY-SITTER.
BUT...
I SEE IT AS MY OBLIGATION
SO I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HER MYSELF

Looks like...
Otousan is worried about the cake matter
SANAKO
Otousan.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT
SANAKO WILL HAVE A HAPPY CHILDHOOD
YOU GAVE UP WORKING IN ORDER TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHILD,
I'M PROUD OF YOU
THERE'S NO NEED, OTOUSAN!
WE'LL MAKE A CAKE
AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH MY WORK,
REGARDLESS, GO LOOK FOR SOME COOK-BOOKS
I'LL FINISH MY WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
Oh, Otousan...

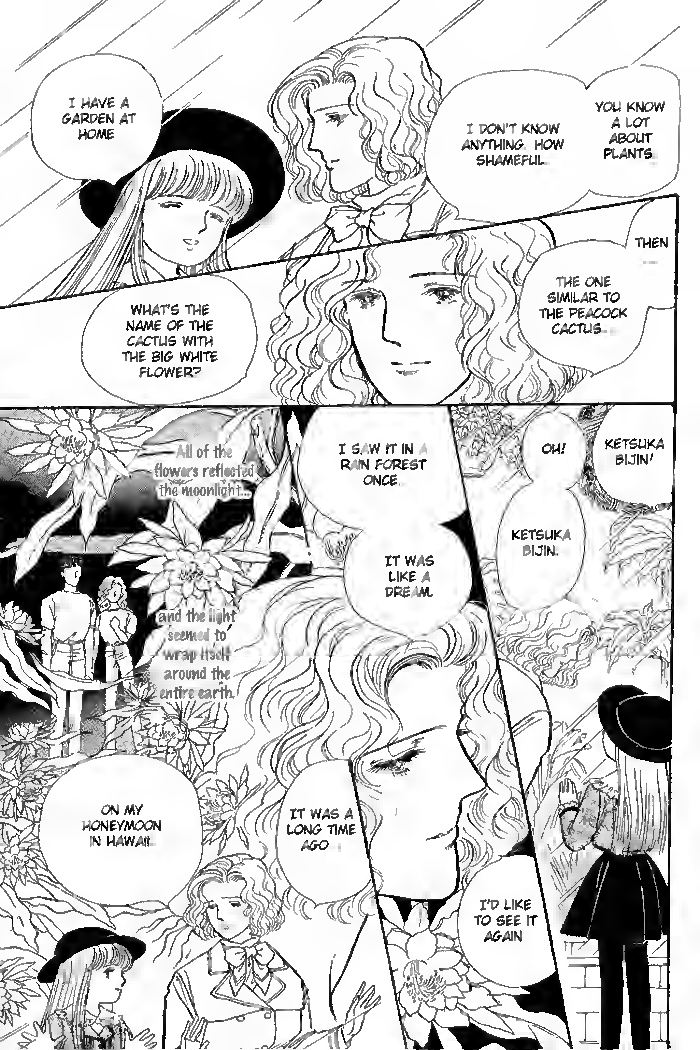
I guess it's crowded because it's Sunday.
There are lots of cook books there.
I'll go look in a department store.


Hey...
Trouble comes
What if Kawakubo-kun sees me again?

She's heading for the baby department.
Maybe she just had a baby
I'm going to follow her
She must have lots of kids.
Two... five items
at clothes for toddlers.
She's looking
In the end,
she didn't buy any thing
Oh she's leaving
What is she looking for?
now it's children's
Maybe she has a child my age
First it was toddler clothes

Oh!
That's a dangerous spot for pedestrians.
She must not be used to crowds, she seems confused.
CAREFUL!
beep beep
.....
.....
UH... THANK YOU.
YOU LOOK TIRED.
WHY DON'T YOU REST IN FRONT OF THE FLOWER SHOP?
I'M OK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M LOOKING FOR A BUILDING

IT'S SO EMBARRASSING.
I'M COMPLETELY LOST.
YOU CAN GET YOUR SHOE REPAIRED IN THE DEPARTMENT STORE.
LET ME TAKE IT THERE FOR YOU.
OH, DON'T BOTHER.
This woman is different.
JUST WAIT HERE, OK?
She doesn't seem like an adult.
THANK YOU.
HERE IS IT.
standing on one leg like that
An adult wouldn't look in a shop window.
THE ONE IN FRONT IS A SHAKOBA CACTUS.
IT'S ALSO CALLED A CHRISTMAS CACTUS. IT STARTS BLOOMING THIS MONTH.
THAT FLOWER IS BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT IS IT CALLED?
THE BIG ONE IS A PEACOCK CACTUS.


I HAVE A GARDEN AT HOME
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. HOW SHAMEFUL.
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT PLANTS.
THEN
THE ONE SIMILAR TO THE PEACOCK CACTUS.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE CACTUS WITH THE BIG WHITE FLOWER?
All of the flowers reflected the moonlight...
and the light seemed to wrap itself around the entire earth.
I SAW IT IN A RAIN FOREST ONCE.
IT WAS LIKE A DREAM.
OH!
KETSUKA BIJIN!
KETSUKA BIJIN.
ON MY HONEYMOON IN HAWAII.
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT AGAIN

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY I'M TELLING YOU ALL THIS
LOOK AT THE TIME I HAVE TO GO!
WAIT!
I HAVEN'T—
I'LL BE GOING—
That person is so elegant.
Is that the type who can be compared to a Ketsuka Bijin?
My mother might be like her.
SANAKO?
NO,
IT'S ME

IF YOU DRINK TOO MUCH, YOUR BOYFRIEND MIGHT NOT LIKE YOU ANYMORE.
I'M DIZZY BECAUSE I GOT DRUNK LAST NIGHT.
I'M PROBABLY GOING TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.
TSUKIMORI-SAN...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I SEE.
I'M CONFUSED.
I DON'T KNOW.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?
MY BOY-FRIEND
IS MOVING TO OSAKA BECAUSE OF HIS JOB.
HE WANTS ME TO GO WITH HIM

I'M THINKING ABOUT GRANDPA.
YES,
BUT IF YOU DON'T GET MARRIED JUST BECAUSE OF HIM...
HE WOULDN'T BE HAPPY ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
HE AND MOTHER ALWAYS QUARREL...
I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR GRANDPA.
Tsukimori san...
THAT'S WHY I'M THE ONE LIVING WITH GRANDPA
IF I GO, GRANDPA WILL BE ALL ALONE
I... DON'T WANT TO BE FAR AWAY FROM YOU
It's not really Grandpa...
Who is confusing me
I WANT TO BE HERE ALWAYS... LIKE THESE PLANTS... BATHED IN THE LIGHT FROM THE SKY WINDOWS...
I want to be with you always

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, AKARI.
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY BRING THAT MATTER UP?
DON'T RUN AWAY FROM PROBLEMS.
NO, TSUKIMORI-SAN, I—
DON'T SAY IT
I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS MY OWN CHILD.
IF HE'S THE MAN YOU WANT TO CHOOSE
I'M SURE YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF IT.
Tsukimori-san...

This flower, too!
Tsukimori-san!
冬の日

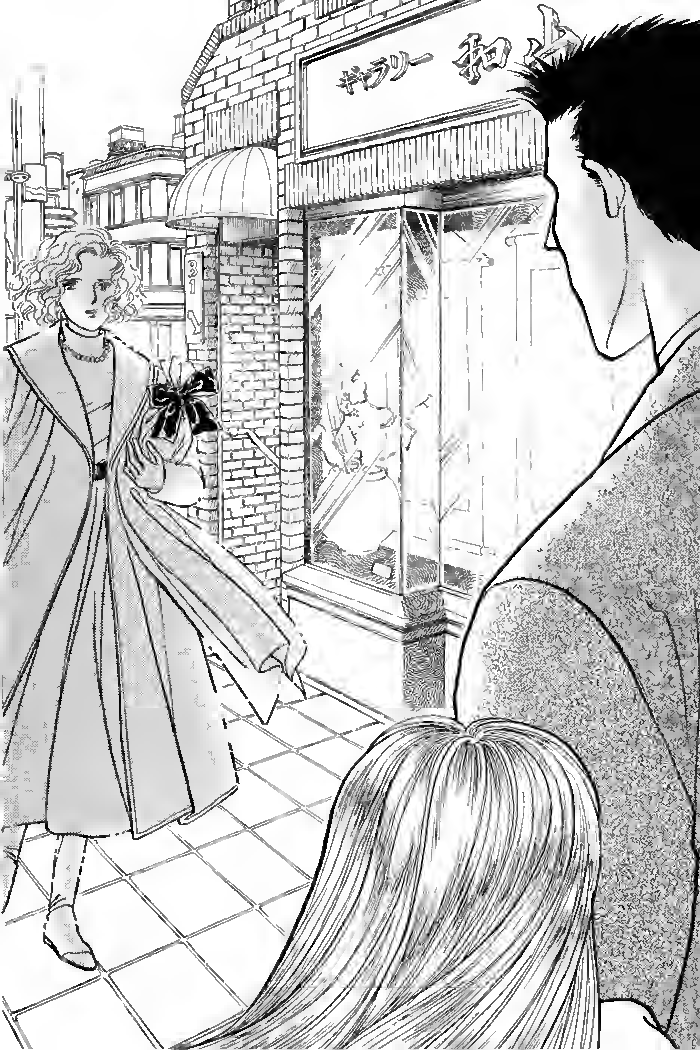
Oh, no.
my eraser fell
fall
Otousan...
is here
OUCH!
OH, MY GOOD-NESS
HOW RUDE!
STUPID!

Kawakubo-kun is a cactus after all.
Hachimoki Building
NO.
UM.
MAY I HELP YOU?

This person looks confused
IS IT A PRESENT?
UH...
I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS CACTUS
YES.
PLEASE WRAP IT
I've seen her somewhere
YES, IT IS
Doesn't she look like Sanako?
AH!!
IS THIS THE HACHINOKI BUILDING?
PLEASE WAIT!
Akimoto Florist
Don't tell me she's—
UM, DO YOU
WANT TO SEE TSUKIMORI-SAN?

WE NEVER EXPECTED A MAN TO COME
SO YOU CAME TO TALK TO THE TEACHERS?
IS YOUR CHILD A BOY?
EXCUSE ME, LADIES
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T JOIN US FOR TEA?
HOW WAS IT, OTOUSAN?
YOUR REPORT WAS EXCELLENT
I'M JUST NOT USED TO BEING WITH ALL THOSE WOMEN
IS HE THE CACTUS KAWAKUBO?
YOU SAW IT
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT
BUT BASICALLY HE PICKED THE ERASER UP FOR YOU
SO HE WAS BEING NICE TO YOU
BUT I DON'T LIKE HIS WAY OF BEING NICE
Maybe...
his mother didn't come

GIRLS ARE INTERESTING BECAUSE THEY'RE DIFFERENT
HE PROBABLY THOUGHT "SANAKO WILL CATCH IT"
BUT GIRLS ARE DIFFERENT FROM BOYS
WERE YOU A BOY TOO, OTOUSAN?
I HATE BOYS
I DON'T LIKE HIM.
HM. I WONDER
BUT YOU WEREN'T LIKE KAWAKUBO-KUN, WERE YOU?
What was Otousan like...
when he was a boy?
grip
Otousan?


ギャラリー 和心

That woman...
the one like a Ketsuka Bijin.
Does Otousan know her?
NAGIKO

MA'AM, YOUR CHANGE
Otousan, why?
KE!...
KEISUKE-SAN
Huh?
He called her Naoko
Why is her name the same as my mother's?
Otousan!
Isn't that...
my mother's name?

THEN SHE IS SANAKO!
YOU ARE SANAKO!
Okasan!
She has to be my mother!
It's true, isn't it?

Otousan, tell me!
Isn't that true?
Isn't my mother dead?
why is mother here?
Otousan,
live with us?
Why doesn't she...
Why?
OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT STORE.
THAT WOMAN ...
I MET HER BEFORE ....
OH, REALLY?

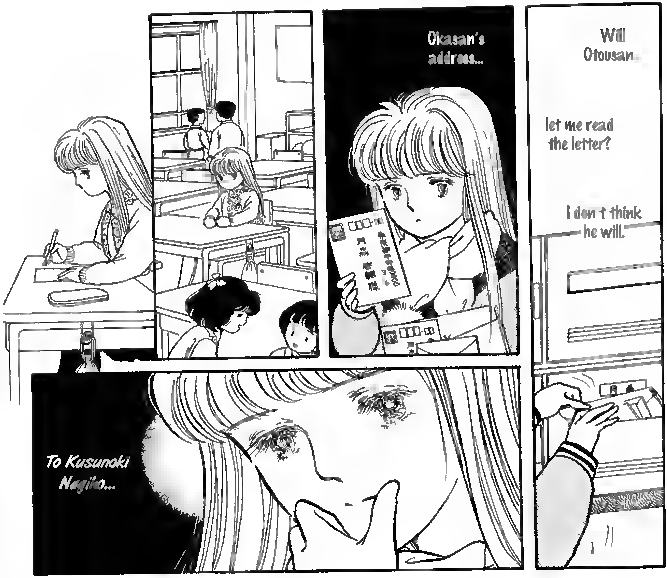
SANAKO,
GIVE ME...
A LITTLE MORE TIME.
Otousan looks so sad
PUT ON

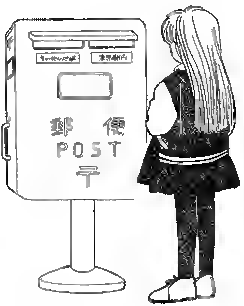
SANAKO-CHAN!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET SICK
I'M CONFUSED, AKARI-CHAN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Sanako-chan.
WHY DID OTOUSAN LIE TO ME?
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE ANGRY?

I'M STILL A CHILD
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
DID MY MOTHER ABANDON ME?
SANAKO-CHAN YOU HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SOB
SOB
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO
WHEN SOMEBODY HATES ME
EVERYONE IS HERE BESIDE YOU.
SHIZUKA-CHAN MIYAKE-SAN, AUNTIE FROM MICHINAGA
THOUGH LOVE IS BEAUTIFUL, IT CAN BE SAD AS WELL.
YOU WILL COME TO UNDER-STAND...
WHAT ALL THAT MEANS.
BUT ALL THAT LOVE COMES FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS.

HE KEPT IT A SECRET FOR YOUR SAKE
SANAKO, YOU LOVE YOUR DAD
AREN'T YOU SAD BECAUSE OF THAT?
All that love comes from the bottom of our hearts.
I'M SURE YOUR DAD IS FEELING THE SAME WAY
THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, SANAKO-CHAN?
YES
I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND
AKARI-CHAN!
COME OVER HERE!
YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS!
THE BUD IS GETTING BIGGER
A blossoming bud...
IT WILL PROBABLY BLOSSOM SOON
Okaasan...

My mother's photo...
still stands where it always has...
Since then...
It seems as if there's a distance between Otousan and me.
I can't explain it.
From Okasan!
But...
THUMP
Kusunoki Nagiko
To Tsukimori Kasuke
From Kusunoki Nagiko





Please come see it

The Ketsuka Bijin we have will bloom soon

From Tsukimori Sanako.

IVYSCAN

IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

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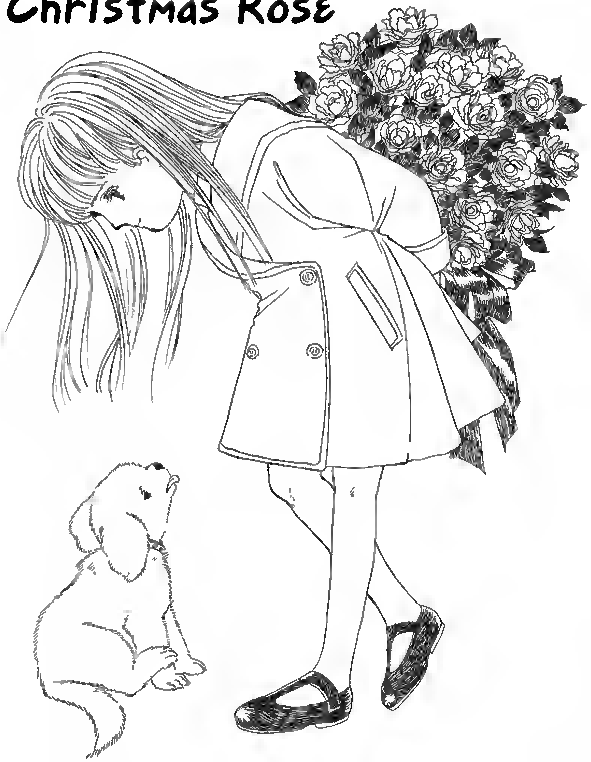
Chapter 2:
Christmas Rose



I wonder...
If Okasan will come.
The Ketsuka Bijin.
will flower tonight
IT'S REALLY NOT THE SEASON FOR IT TO BLOOM.
BUT MAYBE IT WILL BECAUSE OF AKARI
IT'S NOT AS STRONG IF IT'S PLANTED IN A POT.

BEFORE YOU WERE BORN
LONG AGO?
I SAW THEM A LONG TIME AGO IN HAWAII
ON MY HONEY-MOON IN HAWAII
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
IN THE WILD OF COURSE
At that time, Otousan was beside her
THEY WEREN'T WEAK LIKE THIS ONE
BUT 10 YEARS HAVE PASSED
SO STRANGE... IT FEELS LIKE IT JUST HAPPENED...
FOR A CHILD, EVEN A DAY IS A LONG TIME,
BUT FOR AN ADULT, TIME PASSES TOO QUICKLY
MONTHS, YEARS— THEY ALL GO BY SO QUICKLY...
FOR ME ANY-THING THAT HAPPENED A YEAR AGO SEEMS LIKE ANCIENT HISTORY
FUNNY

WE LIVE IN DIFFERENT TIMES?
DOES THAT MEAN... SO...
YOU'LL GROW UP, BUT I WON'T.
POSSIBLY IN ANOTHER 10 YEARS.
YET THE TIME PASSES BY FASTER FOR ME
She's getting more rebellious.
A sign of growing up...
Oh, well.
I'M ONLY GOING TO AKARI-CHAN'S
NEITHER DO I
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
JUST FOR A WHILE
ARE YOU GOING OUT?
JUST FOR A WHILE
DON'T. IT'S ALREADY LATE!
WOW, IT'S BEAUTIFUL
HMM... HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE IT?
DOES TIME PASS TOO QUICKLY FOR YOU, AKARI-CHAN?

That person...?
AKARI-CHAN...
CAN I STAY AT YOUR PLACE TONIGHT?
NO MATTER WHAT—
DID YOU INVITE HER?
WAIT, AKARI-CHAN!
.....
.....

BAR
MAY I COME IN?
PLEASE DO. WE JUST OPENED UP.
THEN, MAY I HAVE SOME TEA?
I'M SORRY WE DON'T HAVE TEA
OH, DEAR. I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE DRINKING ALCOHOL.
IF THAT'S THE CASE WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
DO YOU HAVE WHITE WINE?
YES, WE DO
OH, NO!
DON'T WORRY.
I'M SO NERVOUS
SORRY

I WAS THE ONE WHO ABANDONED THEM.
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE I LIVED WITH MY HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT I SHOULD DO
LONG AGO, THERE WAS A WANDERER WHO STAYED OVER-NIGHT IN A HOUSE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED THERE WERE SO POOR, THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR THE GUEST.
THIS BUILDING'S NAME IS HACHINOKI.
ACCORDING TO HISTORY, IT WAS FIRST MADE WITH HACHI WOOD
BEFORE THE WANDERER LEFT,
HE GAVE THEM A HACHI TREE AS THANKS.
THE PEOPLE HERE ARE THE SAME
WE TRY TO HELP PEOPLE IN TROUBLE
EVERY-ONE IS KIND.
TSUKI-MORI-SAN.
SANAKO.

!!
SANAKO?
YOU'VE BEEN GONE QUITE AWHILE
I'M SORRY
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
SANAKO WROTE TO YOU?
She was the one...
No wonder she's been acting so strangely.
I
RECEIVED A LETTER FROM SANAKO
Nagiko!
SHE INVITED ME TO COME AND LOOK AT THE FLOWER.

WAIT.
SANAKO WANTED YOU TO SEE IT, RIGHT?
YOU CAME TO VIEW THE FLOWER.
IT WILL BLOOM VERY SOON.
KEISUKE-SAN...
THIS IS OUR HOME.

WOW, THERE ARE SO MANY PLANTS.
THIS IS SANAKO'S ROOM
SHE SEEMS TO LIKE LIVING HERE.
From a baby,
to a small child so now...
.....
.....
This is...
the place where Sanako grew up
We parted before she was able to walk.
SHE HATES MATH AND PHYS. ED.
Sanako's table, chair, and school bag
Her bed
A doll
SHE'S DOING GREAT IN SOCIAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGE BUT...
The first time she stood up,
and was able to walk.
A LONG TIME AGO. NOWADAYS SHE CHOOSES THEM HERSELF
THESE CLOTHES
DID YOU—

WHEN SHE WAS 5 ... 7 ...
I THINK ABOUT HER.
EVERY TIME I SEE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES,
I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF
I WAS SELFISH
I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN ABOUT HER...
AND ALWAYS WONDERED WHEN I COULD MEET HER.
CAN I REALLY BE CALLED HER MOTHER?
AN UNNATURAL PARENT LIKE ME...
BUT.
WHEN I DID MEET HER,
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE SHE WAS MY DAUGHTER
Naoko...
RRRRR

SANAKO WILL BE STAYING OVERNIGHT AT A FRIEND'S PLACE.
OK
TSUKIMORI HERE. AH, AKARI-CHAN.
OH?
SANAKO?
CLICK
SHE WASN'T THE ONE ON THE PHONE
OH, I SEE.
YES...
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY...
I WANT MY PARENTS TO GET ALONG.
YES...
I LET THEM KNOW.
POOR THEM...
OTOUSAN TOLD ME...
THANK YOU, AKARI-CHAN.

SANAKO, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO MEET YOUR MOTHER?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
It seems she couldn't forget about them.
It's been 10 years since Tsukimori-san and his wife split up
NO, I .
SO DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
ALWAYS SO BUSY WITH WORK.
KEISUKE-SAN
REALLY?
YOU'VE CHANGED,
I wonder what they're talking about now...
Even though the season isn't right,
that Katsuka Pilm...
ONLY NOW DO I REALIZE I WASN'T A VERY GOOD HUSBAND
BUT IT WAS ONLY AN EXCUSE FOR ME TO GET YOU TO TAKE CARE OF SANAKO
MEN ARE ALWAYS BUSY,

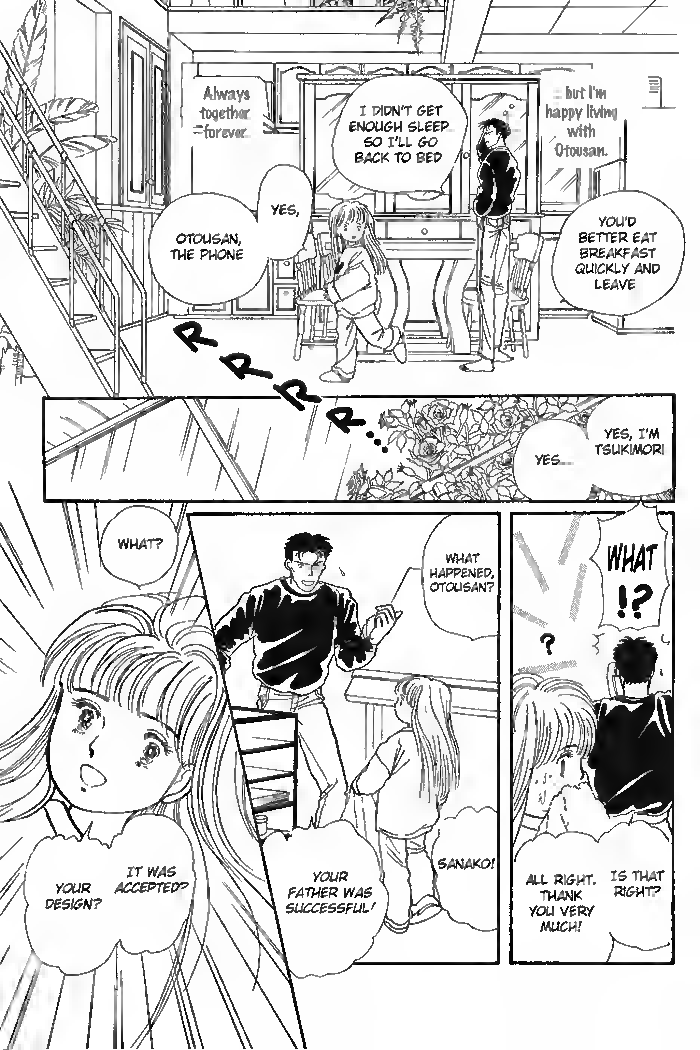
KEISUKE-SAN
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE WOMAN WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE
IT'S TRUE THAT WHEN A MAN AND WOMAN HAVE CHILDREN...
THEIR PERSONALITIES CHANGE.
I JUST DIDN'T UNDER-STAND.
BUT I WAS WRONG. IT'S NOT ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY.
I WAS TAUGHT THAT BY SANAKO
SO NOW I CAN UNDER-STAND A LITTLE...
BECAUSE OF SANAKO
After that, they managed to get along...
THE FLOWER IS STARTING TO BLOOM...
and understand each other.
I'M SO SORRY, KEISUKE-SAN
MAYBE NEITHER OF YOU CAN FORGIVE ME—

It will never happen again...
for either of them.
I'M HAPPY YOU ARE WELL,
EVEN SO, I...
TSUKIMORI-SAN
WHERE'S SANAKO?
IS SHE ASLEEP?
HAS SHE LEFT?
YES
LEAVING YOU AND SANAKO
HOW SELFISH
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WANTED TO MEET HER,
SO I COULD TELL HER HOW SELF-CENTERED SHE WAS

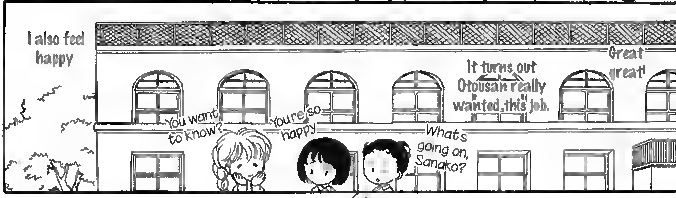
LET IT BE
Akari-chan...
SHE'S PRETTY HEAVY
WOW
OH..
SHE'S SOUND ASLEEP
This is my room...
Huh?
DON'T WORRY
Oh!
TAP
TAP
GOOD MORNING
GOOD NIGHT

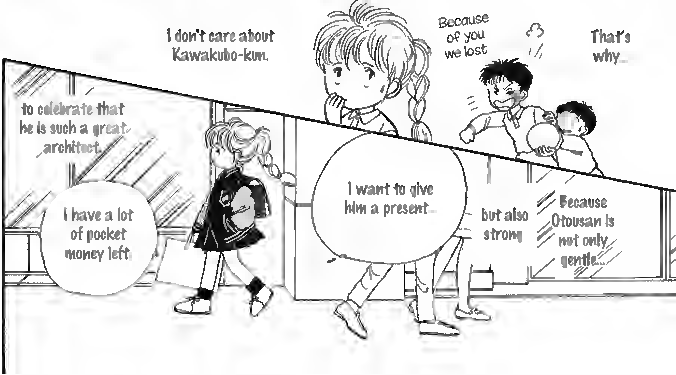
SHE WENT HOME SO LATE AT NIGHT.
SOMEONE'S WIFE SHOULDN'T BE COMING HOME SO LATE.
MORNING, OTOUSAN.
HMM...
IT SEEMS SHE'S HAPPY
HAS BECOME KUSUNOKI-SAN
YOUR MOTHER
WHEN YOU WERE BORN,
I WAS SO BUSY WITH WORK, I WAS HARDLY EVER HOME
YOUR MOTHER HAD TO TAKE CARE OF YOU ALL ALONE.
IT WAS HARD FOR HER BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS GOT SICK VERY EASILY
BUT I NEVER KNEW

SO SHE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY
SHE BECAME WEAK ENOUGH THAT SHE HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED...
YOUR GRANDPARENTS WERE WORRIED AND LOOKED AFTER HER.
AND YOUR MOTHER SAID SHE COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF YOU ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY, SANAKO
.....
NO MATTER WHAT,
I COULDN'T RETURN YOUR MOTHER.
Sanako...
She has the same personality as me.
She is my mother...
IT WASN'T THAT
Otousan...
I'VE MET MY MOTHER...
AND I ALREADY KNEW SHE COULDN'T RETURN


Always together =forever...
I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP SO I'LL GO BACK TO BED
...but I'm happy living with Otousan.
YES, OTOUSAN, THE PHONE
YOU'D BETTER EAT BREAKFAST QUICKLY AND LEAVE
RRRR...
YES.....
YES, I'M TSUKIMORI
WHAT?
WHAT HAPPENED, OTOUSAN?
WHAT!?
?
YOUR DESIGN?
IT WAS ACCEPTED?
YOUR FATHER WAS SUCCESSFUL!
SANAKO!
ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
IS THAT RIGHT?

THAT'S WONDERFUL, TSUKIMORI-SAN!
OH, YOUR DESIGN FROM BEFORE?
ISN'T THAT NICE, SANAKO-CHAN?
WOW, THAT'S GREAT!
YOU'RE GREAT, OTOUSAN!


I also feel happy
You want to know?
You're so happy
What's going on, Sanako?
It turns out Otousan really wanted this job.
Great
great!


I don't care about Kawakubo-kun.
Because of you we lost
That's why...
to celebrate that he is such a great architect.
I have a lot of pocket money left.
I want to give him a present...
but also strong
Because Otousan is not only gentle...

Otousan?
I CAN'T LEAVE MY CHILD
SHE'S STILL VERY YOUNG...
BUT AT THIS STAGE...
I HOPED IT WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM...
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE ACCEPTED
REFUSE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ARE YOU SURE YOU REALIZE THAT?
FOR YOU TO RETURN TO THIS WORK
I UNDERSTAND, BUT THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY...
Is Otousan refusing this job?
DID YOU JUST GET HOME? YOU'RE BECOMING MORE LIKE YOUR MOTHER EVERY DAY
HELLO
OH, SANAKO-CHAN...
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE EXCUSE ME
I KNOW...
BUT NOT NOW

OTOUSAN
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
YOU HEARD?
Otousan is refusing to work on the gallery?
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS,
BUT PLEASE RECONSIDER
She might get married and move to Osaka.
BUT AKARI-CHAN...
THERE'S ALSO AKARI-CHAN
I'M NOT A BABY
What else does he have to give up for me?
But, Otousan,
A CHILD SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THESE THINGS.
Pat
Poor Otousan.
Aunty from Michinaga told me...
you stopped working to take care of me.

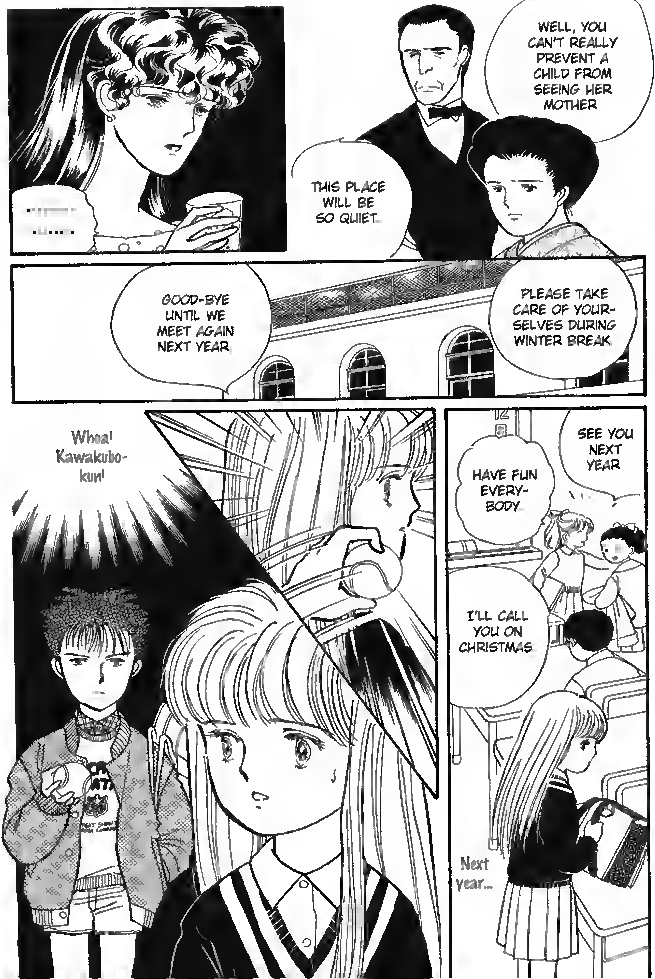
I'm already grown up...
If only I were a little older.....
Otousan could work without worrying.
But being apart from Otousan...
I don't think I could!
R R R...
YES, TSUKIMORI HERE.
NAGIKO...
.....
.....
I'M SORRY TO BE CALLING YOU...
SO SUDDENLY.
BUT I HEARD FROM YOUR OFFICE ABOUT YOUR WORK...

BACK WHEN I LEFT SANAKO, YOU HAD TO QUIT YOUR JOB.
AND NOW, PLEASE LET ME RETURN THE FAVOR.
FOR THAT, I ASK YOU TO FORGIVE ME
WHAT?!
WOULD YOU LET ME TAKE CARE OF SANAKO?
NAGIKO...
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE SANAKO...
I COULDN'T!
THE AIR AND SCENERY HERE IS VERY NICE
IT'S A PERFECT PLACE TO BRING UP CHILDREN
IT DOESN'T MEAN I WANT TO SNATCH HER AWAY FROM YOU
I MEAN THAT HONESTLY
MY HUSBAND AND I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN,
AND HE AGREES WITH THE IDEA.
IT WILL ONLY BE WHILE YOU'RE WORKING ON THAT PROJECT
TELL HER.
PLEASE TELL SANAKO ABOUT IT
BUT...

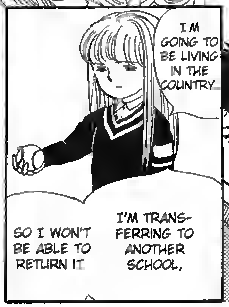
...IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO STAY WITH ME,
I WON'T FORCE HER.
.....
.....
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK
I WON'T FORCE YOU.
ME? STAY WITH OKAISAN?
.....
....
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A PROJECT I REALLY WANT TO WORK ON—

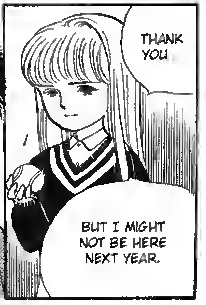
I'LL GO
I..
Sanako...
OH...
OK...
I HAVE TO DO MY HOMEWORK
MAY I GO NOW?
SANAKO IS GOING TO STAY AT HER MOTHER'S?
Otousan won't have to worry about me...
If I stay with Okasan,
Sanako...
and be can do this project
This will be a good solution.

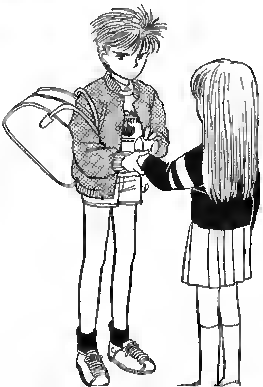
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HOW IS SANAKO-CHAN?
EVEN I'M SHOCKED ABOUT IT,
BUT SHE ACTUALLY SAID IT.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HER MOTHER REALLY MISSES HER.
I GUESS IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY...
NO MATTER WHAT, A FATHER CAN'T REPLACE A MOTHER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I DON'T REALLY WANT HER TO GO
BUT SANAKO DIDN'T MEAN...
I'M GOING TO TAKE HER THERE DURING THE WINTER HOLIDAYS
MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR HER TO LEAVE,
EVEN THOUGH IT FEELS TOO SUDDEN

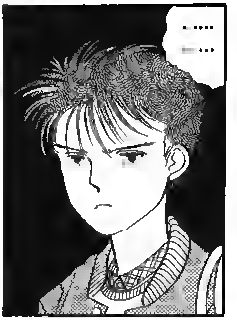

WELL, YOU CAN'T REALLY PREVENT A CHILD FROM SEEING HER MOTHER
THIS PLACE WILL BE SO QUIET.
GOOD-BYE UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN NEXT YEAR.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES DURING WINTER BREAK.
Whoa! Kawakubo-kun!
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR
HAVE FUN EVERYBODY.
I'LL CALL YOU ON CHRISTMAS
Next year...

SO YOU'LL GET BETTER
HERE, I'LL LEND THIS TO YOU SO YOU CAN PRACTICE
Kawakubo-kun...


I'M GOING TO BE LIVING IN THE COUNTRY...
SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN IT
I'M TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.


THANK YOU
BUT I MIGHT NOT BE HERE NEXT YEAR.

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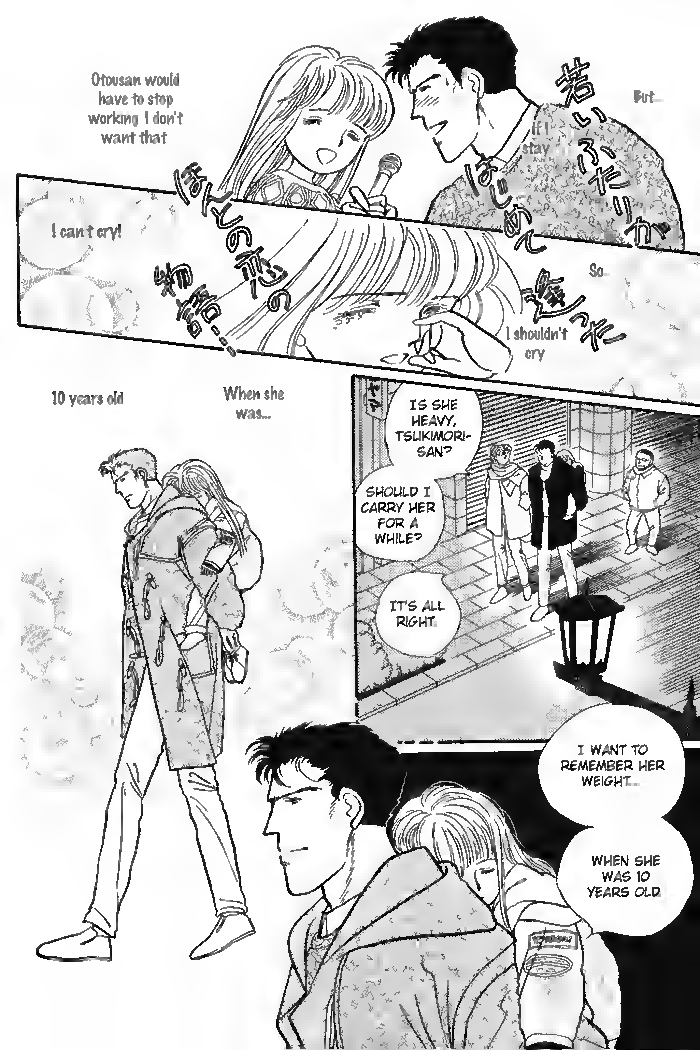
日本音楽著作権協会(出)許諾番号
第9951017-901号

IS THIS YOUR DAUGHTER, TSUKIMORI-SAN?
SO CUTE
AFTER THIS KARAOKE
YUMMY!
DON'T DRINK THE SAKE, ALL RIGHT?
AH, BETTER NOT!
TODAY IS SANAKO'S FAREWELL PARTY
YOU'RE ALL HERE!
KIMURA-SAN!
WOW, YOU ALL CAME
I want to stay here...
with Otousan... forever
I'M NOT USED TO SINGING WITH MY DAUGHTER.
OTOUSAN, LET'S SING A DUET.
EH---?
THE FATHER SHOULD SING, TOO
CHILDREN SHOULD ONLY DRINK FRUIT JUICE,
DO YOU WANT TO SING?
YES!
I KNOW THIS SONG


Otousan would have to stop working I don't want that
But...
If I stay
I can't cry!
So
I shouldn't cry
10 years old
When she was...
IS SHE HEAVY, TSUKIMORI-SAN?
SHOULD I CARRY HER FOR A WHILE?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I WANT TO REMEMBER HER WEIGHT...
WHEN SHE WAS 10 YEARS OLD

YES...
I'VE ASKED AKARI-CHAN AND HER GRANDFATHER...
TO TAKE CARE OF THE PLANTS
Slide
Close
Clang
WE'RE LEAVING NOW.
ARE YOU READY?
YES
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
SINCE WE'VE TRAVELED ON THE TRAIN
I want to always be with Otousan.
would keep on going
If only this train...

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LEARN NOW TO SKI
YOUR SHOES WILL BE TOO SLIPPERY. CHANGE INTO YOUR BOOTS.
WOW! SNOW!
TAXI
....!
NOW THE RIGHT FOOT.
Sanako...

IT'S GOOD IF YOU LIKE ANIMALS
AND IT'S CLOSE TO THE PARK
YOUR MOTHER WAS RIGHT, THE AIR IS CLEANER HERE
Okasan..
SANAKO!
REALLY?
IT'S YOUR DOG, SANAKO
YOUR FATHER SAID YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED A DOG
WOW!
SO CUTE
Woof
Woof
Woof

Otousan!
Don't leave me!
Otousan..?
WELCOME
ARE YOU SANAKO?
I'M TSUKIMORI SANAKO
NICE TO MEET YOU
This person is my stepfather...
PLEASE COME IN IT'S COLD OUT HERE
HOW ARE YOU?
I'M KUSUNOKI

Good-bye, Otousan!
Otousan...
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM, SANAKO.
WE'VE ALREADY PUT YOUR LUGGAGE IN HERE.
I DECORATED THIS ROOM FOR YOU.
THANK YOU, OKASAN.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S LUCKY YOU LIKE IT
I PREPARED FOOD CHILDREN YOUR AGE USUALLY LIKE.
HOW IS IT?
IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS.
WHAT KIND OF FOOD DO YOU LIKE TO EAT? WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY EAT WITH YOUR FATHER?
BUT... I GUESS MEN USUALLY BUY CARRY OUT FOOD.

SOMETIMES HE COOKS HAMBURGERS OR SPAGHETTI
HE SOUNDS LIKE A WONDERFUL FATHER...
OTOUSAN USUALLY COOKS AT HOME
HE USED TO DREAM OF DOING THAT
TO BE THINKING ABOUT HIS CHILD'S NUTRITION
OTOUSAN CAN COOK TRADITIONAL FOOD
FISH AND BOILED VEGETABLES
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M USED TO IT
YOU CAN LEAVE THOSE, SANAKO
YOU'RE NOT TOO COLD?
SANAKO
I'M SO HAPPY
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE HERE

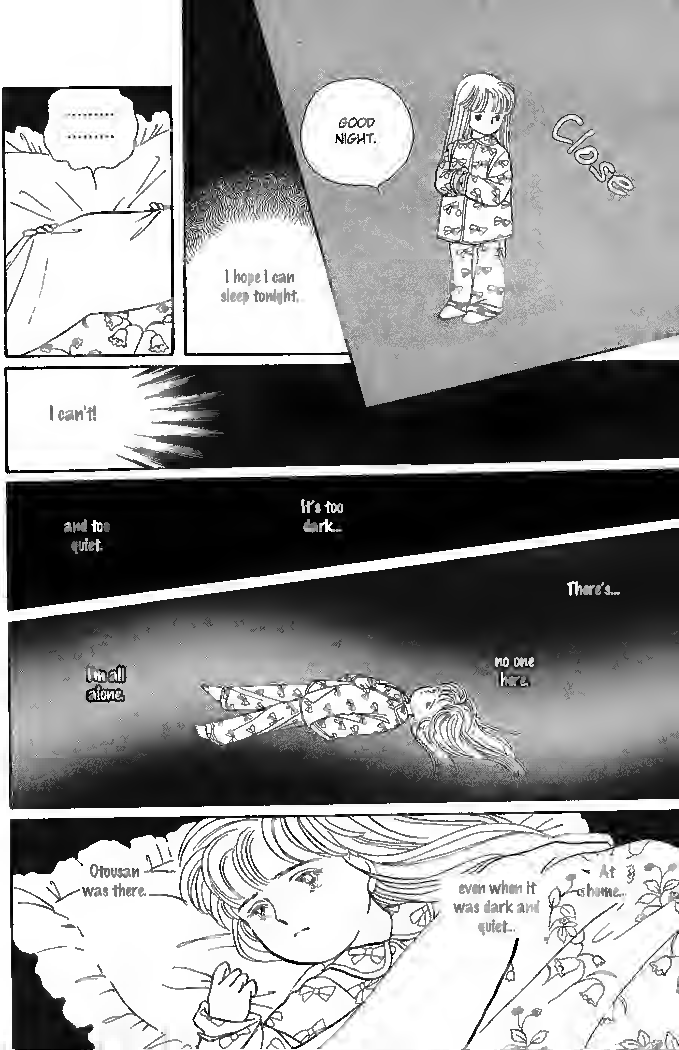
GO TO SLEEP NOW.
GOOD NIGHT.
click
THANK YOU
FOR COMING
Okasan...
Whoa!
Oh, no!
It's as dark as when I have my eyes closed.
It's so dark.
There aren't any tall buildings here.
Oh, yeah...
That's why it's so dark...
phew
Surprised!
click

So different from the city.
...and peaceful, too.
Not a sound.
The city feels so far away
I wonder what Otousan is doing now
Close

Sanako...
DID YOU SLEEP WELL, SANAKO-CHAN?
YES...

GOOD MORNING
Actually, I didn't sleep at all.
WOW, SO SLIPPERY!
HEY, BETTY, STOP THAT!
THEY LIVE CLOSE BY. WHY DON'T YOU PLAY TOGETHER?
THESE ARE MY COUSIN'S CHILDREN
HELLO
NO, I CAN'T
SANAKO, CAN YOU SKI?
BE CAREFUL, SANAKO.
THEY SEEM HAPPY
SANAKO REALLY IS A NICE CHILD.
SHE IS VERY WELL-MANNERED
VERY MATURE FOR HER AGE
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S LIVED IN THE CITY SURROUNDED BY ADULTS
BUT SHE'S STILL A CHILD

IT'S YOUR TURN, SANAKO
OH, SORRY
ARE YOU TIRED?
LET'S GO PLAY INSIDE
SANAKO, HURRY UP!
YES, JUST A MINUTE
I have a headache.
Sanako?
ARE YOU SICK?
SHE KEEPS YAWNING
MAYBE CITY KIDS CAN'T PLAY CARDS
YEAH
ARE YOU GOING HOME?
OH,
SANAKO SEEMS REALLY TIRED
IT MIGHT BE THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN WEATHER
WE SHOULD LET HER REST FOR TODAY


.....
.....
I hope I can sleep tonight.
GOOD NIGHT.
Close
I can't!
and too quiet.
It's too dark...
There's...
I'm all alone.
no one here.
Otousan was there.
even when it was dark and quiet...
At ohome...

I hope...
morning comes soon.
.....
.....
Otousan!
Otousan!
Please come.
If Otousan were here...
I'd feel safe and be able to sleep.
WOW!
WHY IS IT SO MESSY?
TSUKIMORI-SAN
ARE YOU HERE?

THAT'S MEN FOR YOU! THEY JUST CAN'T LIVE BY THEMSELVES
As soon as Sanako leaves, everything becomes messy.
THE POTS ARE DRY!
WHEN DOES THE PROJECT START?
PLEASE DON'T SHOUT! I HAVE A HEADACHE!
DURING THE NEW YEAR.
I SEE.
WELL, I'LL START TIDYING UP, THEN
I WAS BORN HERE I CAN'T LEAVE...
WHY NOT?
AREN'T YOU MOVING TO OSAKA?
I'M NOT GOING!
SO I BROKE UP WITH HIM.
I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED
IN THE END...

TSUKIMORI-SAN, YOU LOOK SO DEPRESSED.
DON'T SAY THAT.
IT'S NOT AN EXCUSE, RIGHT?
YOU EVEN FORGOT ABOUT ME.
AKARI-CHAN.
I MADE THE DECISION.
I DON'T REGRET IT.
WAS THAT A LIE?
YOU TOLD ME YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE ME AS YOUR DAUGHTER.
You don't remember?
Really?
Eh?
MY CHILDHOOD FEELS SO LONG AGO.
AND EVEN THOUGH SANAKO IS NOW 10 YEARS OLD...
I STILL FEEL THE SAME
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS MY OWN DAUGHTER.
BUT...
EVER SINCE YOU CALLED ME UNCLE WHEN YOU WERE 16.
WELL...

BUT I WANT TO BE WITH YOU
I WANT TO CATCH UP TO YOU...
AND WALK BESIDE YOU IN THE SAME TIME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SOMETIMES YOU STILL SEEM LIKE A CHILD
I AM STILL CHILDISH

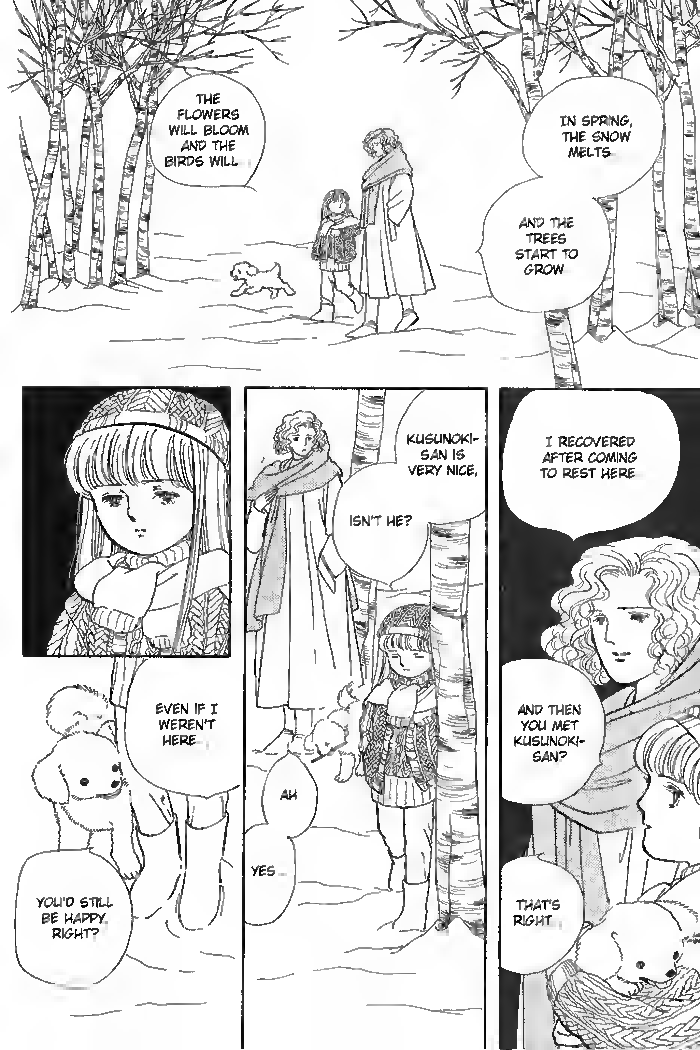
THERE MIGHT BE A BLIZZARD TONIGHT
THE WIND SOUNDS DIFFERENT...
Hyuuuu
I'M GOING TO CHECK ON SANAKO
silence
SANAKO?

whoosh
YOU HAVEN'T GONE TO SLEEP YET?
SANAKO...?
she startled
SANA...
WHAT'S WRONG TONIGHT?
AH...
YOU AREN'T ASLEEP YET?
I CAN'T SLEEP...
EVER...
Rumble
TREMBLE
Sanako do you mean every night, you?

Sanako!
I'M SCARED OF THE WIND
I'M SCARED OF THE DARK
I CAN'T SLEEP BECAUSE I'M TOO SCARED
I'M SCARED, OKASAN!
I'M SCARED!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL RIGHT...
I'M SORRY FOR FORCING YOU
ever since you were a baby,
I should have always been with you...
I'M HERE WITH YOU.
DON'T BE SCARED.
YOU'RE A GOOD CHILD...

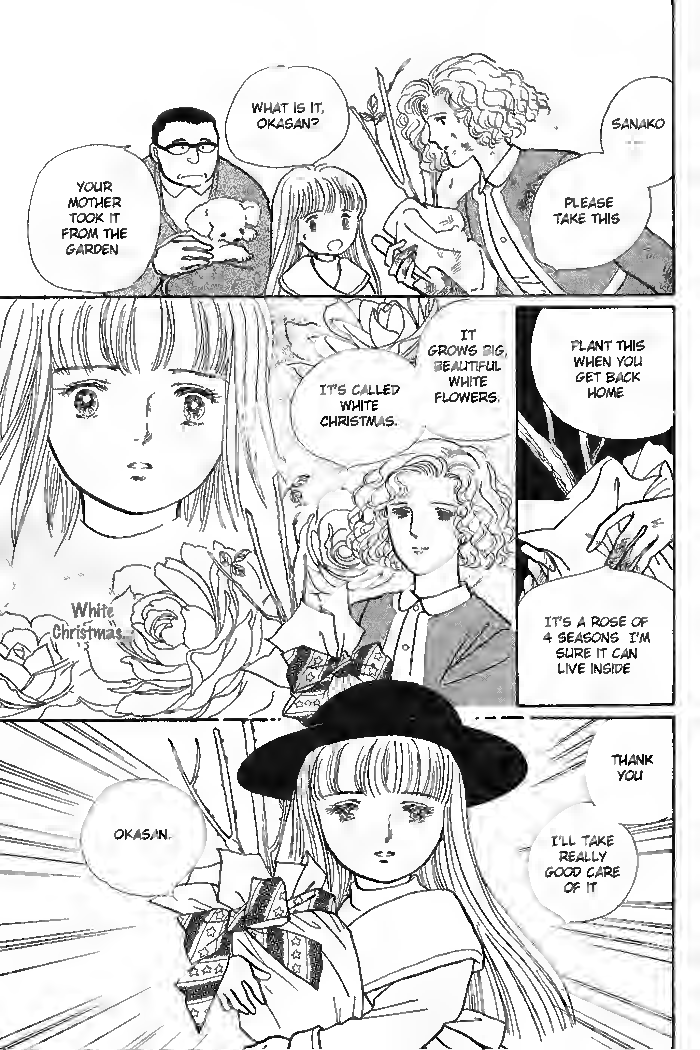
WOULD YOU HAVE GOTTEN A DIVORCE IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN?
OKASAN...
YES?
RIGHT?
IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS BORN THAT YOU GOT SICK,
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN
MAYBE
Sanako!

IT WAS BECAUSE MY BODY WAS WEAK
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT PLEASE FORGIVE ME
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT...
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS ON MY MIND
IT'S ALL RIGHT, OKASAN
Okasan's body...
soft and warm...
thin and weak...
WHOA!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

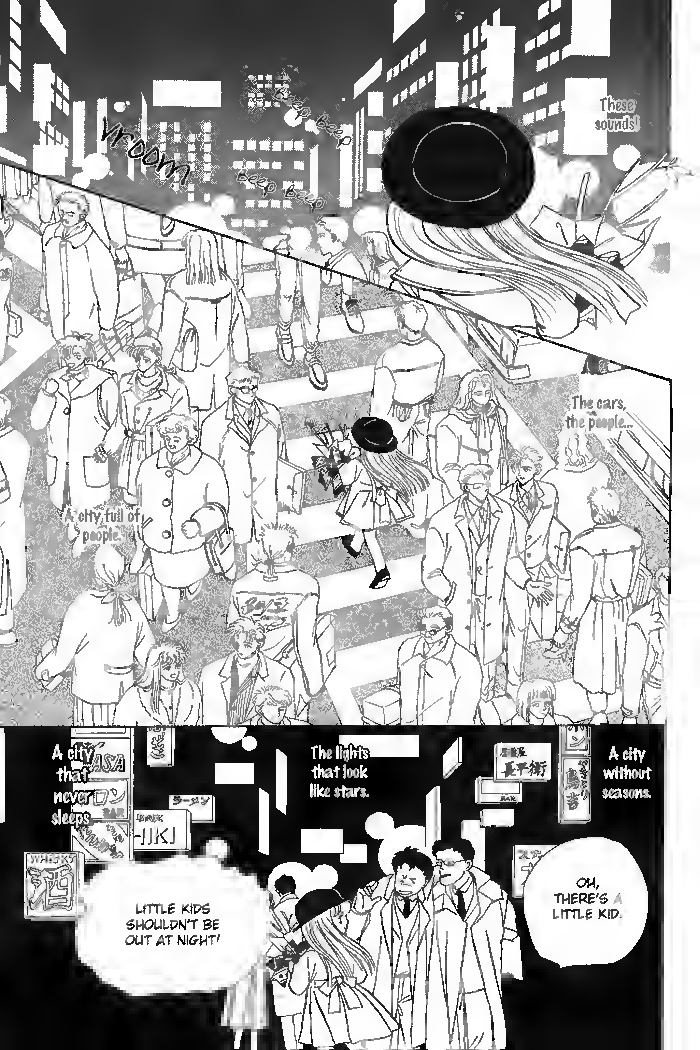

THE FLOWERS WILL BLOOM AND THE BIRDS WILL
IN SPRING, THE SNOW MELTS
AND THE TREES START TO GROW
I RECOVERED AFTER COMING TO REST HERE
KUSUNOKI-SAN IS VERY NICE,
ISN'T HE?
AND THEN YOU MET KUSUNOKI-SAN?
AH
YES
THAT'S RIGHT
EVEN IF I WEREN'T HERE
YOU'D STILL BE HAPPY, RIGHT?

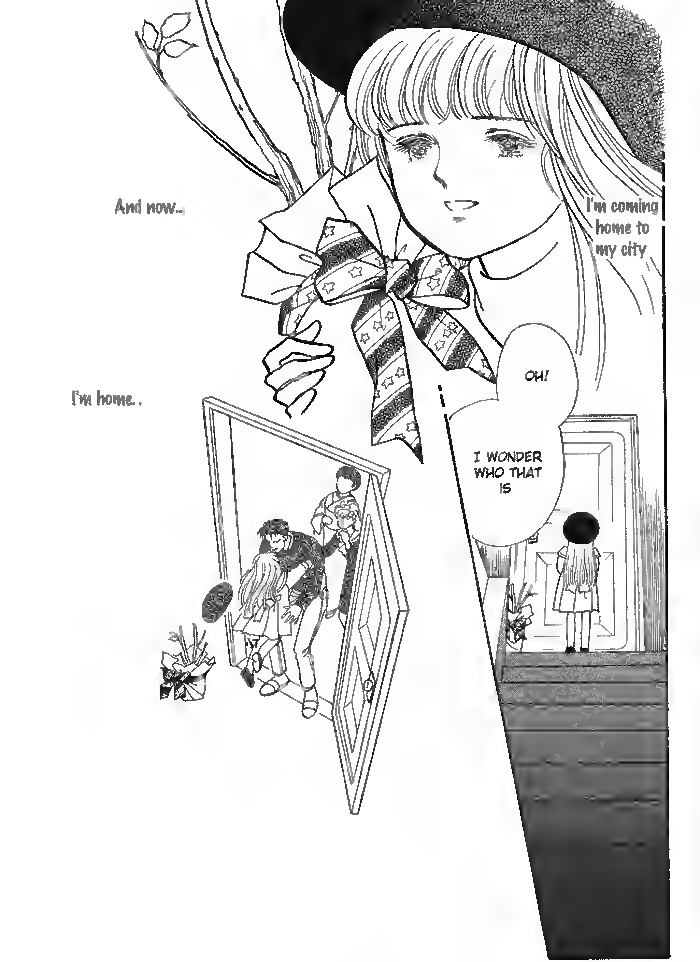
OKASAN
CAN I GO BACK AND LIVE WITH OTOUSAN?
SANAKO...
Sanako...
I DON'T THINK OTOUSAN CAN BE HAPPY IF WE AREN'T TOGETHER.
BUT...
HUH?
I UNDERSTAND
YOU CAN STAY WITH YOUR FATHER...
AND MAKE HIM HAPPY...
You want to live with your father...

NO, I WANT TO, BUT...
YOU... AREN'T GOING TO TAKE BETTY WITH YOU?
THE CITY ISN'T A GOOD PLACE FOR DOGS.
THERE ARE LOTS OF CARS, AND THE AIR IS DIRTY.
IT'S BETTER FOR BETTY TO STAY HERE.
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.
IT'S A PITY, SANAKO.
I REALLY HOPED YOU'D STAY.
BUT I'M HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU.
PLEASE TELL HER...
TELL OKASAN I WISH HER WELL.
AND LET ME KNOW
IF I EVER HAVE
A LITTLE BROTHER OR SISTER
OK!


SANAKO
PLEASE TAKE THIS
WHAT IS IT, OKASAN?
YOUR MOTHER TOOK IT FROM THE GARDEN
PLANT THIS WHEN YOU GET BACK HOME
IT GROWS BIG, BEAUTIFUL WHITE FLOWERS.
IT'S CALLED WHITE CHRISTMAS.
IT'S A ROSE OF 4 SEASONS I'M SURE IT CAN LIVE INSIDE
White Christmas
THANK YOU
OKASAN.
I'LL TAKE REALLY GOOD CARE OF IT

To that city...
To the city where my father is.
HI!
I WANT TO GO HOME ON MY OWN
I CAN RIDE A TRAIN BY MYSELF, AND
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT BY YOURSELF?
PLEASE COME AGAIN SOMETIME
新橋
ゆうらくちょう
有楽町
YURAKUCHO
YURA-KUCHO!
YURA-KUCHO!
PEOPLE GOING TO TOKYO, PLEASE CHANGE TRAINS
WHY IS EVERYONE HERE?
A MAN ALL BY HIMSELF IS DEPRESSING RIGHT?
TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR
OH!
THIS SMELL!


These sounds!
Vroom
A city full of people...
The cars, the people...
A city without seasons.
The lights that look like stars.
A city that never sleeps.
OH, THERE'S A LITTLE KID.
LITTLE KIDS SHOULDN'T BE OUT AT NIGHT!



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This work is from fans to fans. If you like Yamato Waki's work, support her by buying the manga.